Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper | R | London, Thursday, April 17, 1997 | No. 35,498

TODAY: HEALTH SCIENCE Health Americans, Page 12

From China, a Horrid View of Korean Famine

By Sonni Efron
Los Angeles Times Service

TUMEN, China — On the Chinese side of the broad river here is a boomtown with bright lights, tall cranes and gleaming new buildings springing up amid open sewers and shacks. On the other bank is the North Korean city of Namyang, where factories are shut, water service is sporadic and on a recent night only three tiny lights could be seen twinkling.

Horrified Chinese visitors are crossing the long bridge that links North Korea with this Chinese town and are returning with tales of a hunger far more harrowing than anything Western aid workers have been permitted to observe. And in a rare breach of the Stalinist state's code of silence, a recently arrived North Korean woman confirmed this week the famine in her country, telling of winter mornings when she passed corpses of children who had died of hunger and cold in the streets.

Her face streamed with tears as she told of families committing suicide, parents splitting up to scour the countryside for food and abandoned children begging in railroad stations, even in Pyongyang, the capital.

The North Korean government's admission that 134 children have died of malnutrition is "a total lie," she charged. Instead, she said, North Koreans believe that at least 100,000 people have perished since 1995 of malnutrition, cold and lack of medicine. She told of trading away precious quilts for food and spending evenings guarding her few remaining belongings against famished thieves and marauding soldiers.

Also, she said, any notion of egalitarian unity in North Korea had been shattered because hungry workers and soldiers have seen Communist Party elites and military officers divert foreign rice for themselves while giving the workers imported animal fodder.

"In the past we never complained, but now it is different," she said. But while the bitterness and

See KOREA, Page 7

Netanyahu Faces Indictment Over Cronyism Scandal

Israeli Police Push for Charges; Prosecutor to Decide by Monday

By Serge Schmemann
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — A police investigation into allegations of influence-peddling in the Israeli government has concluded with the politically explosive recommendation that charges be brought against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for fraud and breach of trust, officials said Wednesday.

Though it remained for the attorney general and the state attorney to decide whether indictments should be handed down against Mr. Netanyahu and three other senior politicians who are said to be named in the police report, the revelation that the prime minister had been implicated touched off a political crisis, raising serious questions about the government's ability to survive.

The state prosecutor, however, could decide to ignore the recommendation. The prosecutor, Edna Arbel, has said she will make an announcement before the start of the Passover holiday on Monday evening.

Mr. Netanyahu made no comment, but his spokesmen insisted that the prime minister would emerge clean.

Asked what would happen if prosecutors pressed charges, Reuters reported that Health Minister Yehoshua Matza told Israel Radio: "Perhaps it will be to go back to elections."

But initial political commentaries predicted that Mr. Netanyahu, who has been at the eye of one crisis after another in his 10 months in office, would hang tough. The question for now was whether members of his cabinet would begin resigning. None of the ministers made any public comments, though commentators noted that several ministers, including Natan Sharansky, Avigdor Kahalani, Livor Limnat and Dan Meridor, would have serious problems staying in the government if indictments were handed down.

There was no information on what Mr. Netanyahu was accused of in the police report. Mr. Netanyahu's lawyer, Yaakov Weinroth, obviously distraught at having to defend the prime minister against charges he had not seen, said he was told only that the police recommendation against the prime minister was conditional on further investigation by the attorney general.

The affair centered on accusations, first aired in January by Israeli television, that the short-lived appointment of a lawyer named Roni Bar-On as attorney general came about as the result of behind-the-scenes manipulations by the leader of the Orthodox Shas party, Arieh Deri.

Mr. Deri has been on trial for several years on corruption charges, and the accusation was that he tried to push Mr. Bar-On's nomination in his own interests, apparently to forestall the appointment of another candidate. Though not a minister in the government, Mr. Deri carries considerable clout as head of Shas, which is part of Mr. Netanyahu's coalition. In fact, Mr. Bar-On withdrew his nomination within 48 hours, after a torrent of accusations that he was not qualified for the job.

After 12 weeks of intensive investigation, which involved questioning 60 witnesses, the police Tuesday handed the state attorney their 995-page report, which was supposed to remain confidential until Mrs. Arbel and Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein decided whether to press charges. But already Tuesday, the Israeli press and television reported that the police had recommended charging Mr. Deri with extortion, and charging Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Avigdor Lieberman, the director-general of the prime minister's office, with breach of trust and fraud in supporting Mr. Bar-On's nomination.

Progress On Korean Peace Talks

U.S. Is Optimistic North Will Join 4-Way Process

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The United States reported early progress on Wednesday in talks with North and South Korea on a proposal for formal Korean peace talks that would include China.

"We're encouraged by the early progress that has been made," the State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said after a morning of talks in New York between delegations from the two Koreas and the United States.

U.S. officials have been optimistic Pyongyang would respond positively to Washington's year-old joint proposal with South Korea for four-party peace talks that would finally close the books on the 1950-53 Korean War, replacing a fraying armistice with a peace treaty.

"We hope very much that as a result of these talks North Korea will decide to agree with the four-party proposal," Mr. Burns said. He based his upbeat assessment on a telephone conversation with the chief U.S. negotiator, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Charles Kartman, during a lunch break in the talks at the UN Plaza Hotel in New York.

"The talks are under way on a trilateral basis," Mr. Burns said. "They're going well. We're certainly encouraged by the first few hours of the talks, and we hope very much for a positive result from these discussions."

North Korea publicly was upbeat as the meeting began. "I think we will come out with good results," Kim Gye Gwan, Pyongyang's delegation chief, told his South Korean counterpart during a picture-taking session with journalists.

Seoul's chief negotiator, Song Young Shik, was also in an jovial mood, laughing, engaging in chit-chat with Mr. Kim and saying he hoped the meeting would reflect the warm spring day that had enveloped New York.

But the South Korean press attaché, Ji Won Suh, was more cautious about the outcome. He said the North Koreans made a "presentation" during which they said "there are difficulties."

U.S. and South Korean negotiators were ready for marathon talks that would not produce a conclusive reply until Friday. But Mr. Burns indicated the extra session would not be needed.

The formal peace negotiations could begin in June or July after further preparation, including consultations with Beijing.

It was thought North Korea might make a final pitch for more food aid after two years of shortages, due to flooding, that the United States, as well as humanitarian groups, agree are devastating and worsening.

On Wednesday, the United States announced it would ship $15 million worth of corn to North Korea to assist 2.4 million children under age 6, bringing total U.S. food aid to Pyongyang to $33.4 million since late 1995.

Mr. Burns said the new donation was not linked to acceptance of the peace talks offer. *(Reuters, AP, AFP)*

Toll Reaches 343 in Fire at Pilgrims' Camp Near Mecca

Tauseef Mughal/Agence France-Presse

Relatives of pilgrims checking an official list of victims' names Wednesday in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. More than 1,300 Muslims were injured in the fire during the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Page 7.

Major Faces Growing Revolt in Party

3 Cabinet Ministers Join the Dissenters on Europe's Single Currency

By Fred Barbash
Washington Post Service

LONDON — The lid blew Wednesday on the Conservative Party's attempts to contain its deep divisions during Britain's general election campaign, further diminishing its chances of being in power two weeks from now.

The fuse was the familiar issue of European integration, and it presented Prime Minister John Major with an open revolt that he was unable to suppress. Roughly one-fifth of his party's parliamentary candidates, including three cabinet ministers, dissented from the party line by declaring that they would rule out participation in the European single currency planned for 1999.

The official Tory position, carefully crafted to prevent just such an outbreak, is that Britain should "wait and see," with a final decision depending on whether or not the details of the proposed European monetary union suit Britain's interests.

The issue does not rank near the top in polls of voter concerns. But party unity, strong leadership and the ability to govern coherently do. Wednesday's events suggest that the party is disintegrating, said Robert Worcester, one of Britain's leading pollsters. "It is an image issue," he said, demonstrating the prime minister's "weakness and inability to wield authority over his own people."

Mr. Major, who has been grinning and bearing the dissent so far, treated it as a crisis, reprimanding the ministers and pleading for unity.

In a television broadcast, Mr. Major said it would be unwise to make a decision on the single-currency question now but said that if the government thought Britain should join in a single currency, the decision would then be referred to a referendum.

"I will not take Britain into a single currency," he said. "Only the British nation can do that."

He begged the rebels not to send him "naked" into coming European Union negotiations over the single currency. "Like me or loathe me, do not bind my hands when I am negotiating on behalf of the British nation," he said.

The opposition Labour Party leader, Tony Blair, called it "a defining moment" of the campaign. It shows the divisions are so deep within the Conservative Party," he said, "that even in an election campaign they are incapable of being led. And if they are incapable of being led, they are incapable of forming a government that can press the national interest."

Many analysts, including Mr.

See TORIES, Page 7

Lynne Sladky/The Associated Press

Lady Thatcher and her successor, Mr. Major, campaigning Wednesday.

Burma Is Warned On U.S. Sanctions

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has put the Burmese leadership "on notice," warning that the military regime could face U.S. investment sanctions if repression was not lifted.

Mrs. Albright also said in a speech at the U.S. Naval Academy that she would go to Hong Kong to represent the United States in the ceremonies marking the return of the British colony to Chinese rule on July 1. Page 7.

Tobacco Firms Meet Foes To 'Solve Social Problem'

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The two largest U.S. cigarette makers are meeting with anti-smoking forces in pursuit of an agreement that would dramatically alter the tobacco companies' practices while attempting, in the grandiose description of one participant, "to solve the social problem of smoking."

Such an agreement would effectively cap the industry's smoking-related liability. In exchange, companies would accept tight curbs on advertising, stronger federal regulation of smoking, and industry payments of perhaps hundreds of billions of dollars into a fund to compensate smokers, the parties said.

One person involved in the talks said that money had not yet been discussed, and there were many uncertainties as to the final outcome of the talks.

But a settlement along the lines publicized Wednesday would require concessions once considered unimaginable from the tobacco industry.

Top executives of Philip Morris Cos. and RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp. were meeting in suburban Virginia with spokesmen from anti-smoking groups, as well as health-care officials and the attorneys general of six states — Florida, Minnesota, Connecticut, Mississippi, Washington, and Arizona — that have been active in pushing anti-tobacco suits. The two companies at the talks were also representing Loews Corp.'s Lorillard unit and BAT Industries PLC's Brown & Williamson subsidiary.

A participant in the talks, John Coale, whose litigation group is involved in more than 15 class-action suits against tobacco makers, described the anti-smokers' aims in sweeping terms.

"We are negotiating," he said, "to solve the social problem of smoking." He said the "industry wants to help."

See TOBACCO, Page 7

Spanish: Who Has Last Word?

New World's Voices Are Raised to Declare Independence

By Julia Preston
New York Times Service

ZACATECAS, Mexico — Behind the decorous colonial facades of this city an epic battle of words has been under way to determine who is the master of the Spanish language — and whether it should, or can, have any master at all.

In the age of conquest, the language of Spain was its medium for spreading its culture and dominion across the New World. But in modern times, the language that bears Spain's name has escaped its control.

Spaniards now constitute no more than 10 percent of the 400 million people who speak Spanish. Spanish has become one of the world's megalanguages, along with Mandarin, English, Hindi and Arabic. Three living Nobel laureates in literature write in Spanish.

Yet up to now, Spanish speakers have shown surprisingly little interest in exploring the implications of sharing a common idiom.

Seeking to improve the status of the Spanish language, President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico invited King Juan

See SPANISH, Page 7

Newsstand Prices

Bahrain	1.000 Din	Malta	55 c.
Cyprus	C. £ 1.00	Nigeria	125,00 Naira
Denmark	14.00 D.Kr.	Oman	1.250 Rials
Finland	12.00 F.M.	Qatar	10,00 Rials
Gibraltar	£ 0.85	Rep. Ireland	IR £ 1.00
Great Britain	£ 0.90	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R
Egypt	£E 5.50	S. Africa	R12 + VAT
Jordan	1.250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dirh
Kenya	K. Sh. 160	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	$ 1.20
Kuwait	600 Fils	Zimbabwe	Zim$30.00

AT&T

9 770294 805049 16

AGENDA

Russia Agrees to Abolish Death Penalty

STRASBOURG (AFP) — Russia signed a European protocol Wednesday on the abolition of the death penalty, signaling its intention to scrap capital punishment, as it promised more than a year ago.

In a statement, the Council of Europe said Russia's permanent envoy to the Council, Yevgeni Prokhorov, had signed the protocol of the European Convention of Human Rights, which commits signatories to abolishing the death penalty. The Russian Parliament must now ratify the protocol for it to come into force.

The Dollar

New York	Wednesday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
DM	1.7288	1.727
Pound	1.6248	1.6288
Yen	125.775	126.125
FF	5.812	5.8128

The Dow

	Wednesday close	previous close
+92.71	6679.87	6587.16

S&P 500

change	Wednesday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
+8.81	763.53	754.72

PAGE TWO
Sharks Become High-Seas Prey

THE AMERICAS Page 3.
Flawed Practices at the FBI Lab

ASIA/PACIFIC Page 4.
Indian Parties Bicker Over Power

Books ..... Page 10.
Crossword ..... Page 6.
Opinion ..... Pages 8-9.
Sports ..... Pages 20-21.

International Classified Page 4.

The IHT on-line http://www.iht.com

Paris, the Writer's Notebook

But the '20s and '50s Are Over for American Authors

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

PARIS — At first, American writers came to Paris as much to escape Prohibition, censorship and discrimination in the United States as to enjoy a bohemian lifestyle. Later, a stint in Paris in pursuit of the ghosts of Ernest Hemingway or Henry Miller or James Baldwin became part of the rite of passage for a good many aspiring American novelists.

Today, American writers keep coming to Paris, but they do so for far simpler reasons. They have no need to flee home, and few seem drawn by nostalgia for the 1920s or the 1950s. Rather, most come, it seems, because Paris is still Paris, a city with an *art de vivre* — a café and street life and a cultural ambience unlike anything they might find in the United States.

They may know each other, but there is nothing to resemble the circle of writers who crowded Gertrude Stein's salon between the two wars. Now their principal reason for being here is France, not other writers.

"In Hemingway's day, everyone they knew spoke English," said Edmund White, 57, a novelist and biographer who moved to Paris in the mid-1980s. "The writers here now are interested in French culture."

Yet they remain outsiders, and this adds to the appeal of being here. They can savor the complexity, inaccessibility and otherness of French society to the full. But they also frequently come to view the United States in a new light. And in the end, it is *la différence* between France and the United States that provides a richly embroidered backdrop to their lives.

Diane Johnson, who moved here semipermanently only three years ago, has focused with humor and relish on

See PARIS, Page 7

Conservationists Sound Alarm / **100 Million Sharks Killed a Year**

A Feared Predator Becomes a High-Seas Prey

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SYDNEY — Gerald Rauch was doing an underwater navigation exercise recently as part of a diving course in a tranquil cove near one of the palm-fringed islands in the Whitsunday group off the northeast coast of Australia when he felt a sharp tug on his left arm.

At first he thought it was his diving instructor. "But when I turned around, I came face to face with a very large shark," he said.

Mr. Rauch, 30, had come from Italy to explore the coral wonderland of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, but ended up in hospital for surgery to repair his arm after the apparently unprovoked attack by a two-meter shark.

The attack on Mr. Rauch was one of seven by sharks against humans reported in Australia this year. Yet despite the dread that sharks evoke, statistics show that, even in Australia, the chance of a shark attack is minuscule.

Indeed, just over 20 years after Steven Spielberg helped to demonize sharks with his movie "Jaws," they have turned from predator to prey. A number of scientists and fisheries officials warn that excessive hunting for their fins, meat, skins and other valuable products could lead to the extinction of some species.

Earlier this month, the National Marine Fisheries Service in the United States applied new rules that cut by half the quotas on commercial harvests of large coastal sharks in U.S. waters and imposed a quota for the first time on catches of small coastal sharks.

As harvesting of many other kinds of edible fish in the world's oceans has drastically depleted their numbers, increased targeting of sharks by fishermen in recent years has caused stocks to plummet by as much as 80 percent for some Atlantic species, U.S. officials say.

The Worldwide Fund for Nature, based in Switzerland, "is becoming increasingly alarmed about the state of sharks around the world," said Michael Sutton, director of the fund's Endangered Seas Campaign. "Sharks are extremely vulnerable to overfishing."

Australia and the United States are among the few countries that regulate their shark fisheries.

"Shark fishing amounts to open season on the high seas, because very few shark fisheries are subject to any form of management by national or international authorities," Mr. Sutton said.

RESEARCHERS say more than 100 million sharks are killed each year, many for their dorsal fins alone, which are in growing demand for Chinese cuisine in Asia. The fins are easy for fishermen to transport and preserve by sun drying. They fetch up to $90 a kilogram in the main centers of Singapore and Hong Kong, according to a study by Traffic, the fund's wildlife monitoring program.

"Shark fins are among the world's most expensive fisheries commodities, and their value has risen sharply in the last decade," as demand in China and other growing economies of Asia increases, Traffic said. Shark meat "is increasingly popular in many markets around the world."

Shark skins are tanned to produce a high-quality leather while the liver oil is used in the textile and tanning industries and in the manufacture of lubricants, cosmetics, vitamins and pharmaceutical products.

Unlike other fish which have bone skeletons, sharks and their close relatives, such as rays and skates, have skeletons made of cartilage. It is used in the manufacture of fishmeal and, more recently, as a treatment for cancer.

In Costa Rica, a company that markets crushed shark cartilage to American and European pharmaceutical firms has seen its monthly production soar from 3,000 to 22,500 pounds (1,400 to 10,000 kilograms) in the last few years, according to the Washington-based Center for Marine Conservation.

The main shark fishing nations include Argentina, Brazil, Britain, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and the United States.

Scientists say that sharks are very vulnerable to overharvesting because they tend to grow slowly, mature late and produce few offspring. The great white shark, for example, takes about 15 years to reach reproductive age. Females have litters of no more than 14 pups and breed only once in two years.

There are about 380 known species of sharks, ranging from 20-centimeter (8-inch) lantern sharks to massive (but harmless to humans) whale sharks, which can grow to 12 meters.

Scientists say that more than half of all sharks grow to less than one meter in length and only a relatively few species — mainly the great white shark, tiger shark and several species of whaler sharks, including the bronze whaler and white tipped reef shark — attack humans.

Records show that most attacks involve a single defensive or inquisitive bite.

"Great white sharks were made to hunt marine mammals," said Ron Taylor, a Sydney-based underwater filmmaker who, with his wife, Valerie, has spent years recording shark behavior. "The only way it can really investigate something is by feeling with its teeth."

To conserve declining stocks, most state governments in eastern Australia have banned the killing of great white sharks — the most feared of the large sea hunters — in waters they control up to three miles from the coast. Breach of the law carries a fine of 20,000 Australian dollars ($16,000) and/or up to six months in jail.

Australia's federal government has said it would extend the ban out to the edge of the country's 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone when all states introduce uniform laws.

THE GREAT white shark, which can reach seven meters in length and more than two tons in weight, is also protected in South Africa, the Maldives and in California and Florida because of declining numbers. "Years of irrational hatred and indiscriminate hunting and destruction have taken their toll," said Bob Martin, fisheries minister for the Australian state of New South Wales. "It is time to stop demonizing the species and start recognizing it as a fine example of top-of-the-chain evolution."

Conservationists want Australia and the United States to rally support for international protection of the great white shark under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which meets every four years.

Moves to protect the great white shark and regulate shark fisheries face fierce opposition from some fishermen and fishing nations, and skepticism from a beach-going public that fears protection may cause increased shark attacks.

"For a government to protect something that can tear your children apart in seconds is brainless," said Vic Hislop, an Australian professional shark hunter.

But scientists say that sharks perform the same vital function as predators and scavengers in the ocean as large carnivores do in ecosystems on land. By preying on weak or poorly adapted fish and marine mammals, only those that are strong and healthy survive to reproduce.

"It's Darwin's survival of the fittest at work," said Craig Sowden of the Sydney Aquarium. "If you remove sharks, you are interfering with the natural order that makes fish and other sea creatures stronger by selective culling."

Maurice Mantel/United Press International

The U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service has cut by half quotas on commercial harvests of large coastal sharks. This great white shark was taken off Long Island.

Citing Threat Of Terrorism, Israel Closes West Bank

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Citing new warnings of terrorism by Islamic militants, Israel ordered the West Bank closed, indefinitely Wednesday and told soldiers to hitchhike only armed and in pairs.

The alert came hours before President Bill Clinton's Mideast envoy, Dennis Ross, was to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem and later with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, in Gaza City to try to rescue the faltering peace process.

The chief Palestinian peace negotiator said that Mr. Ross's mission would fail unless he persuaded Mr. Netanyahu to stop a construction project in East Jerusalem.

"No credibility can be restored to the peace process while the bulldozers continue to work on this mountain," said Saeb Erekat, standing at the site where Israel began building a 6,500-apartment complex last month.

On Malta, meanwhile, Mr. Arafat met with Foreign Minister David Levy of Israel in the first high-level contacts in a month. The meeting came after Arab and European diplomats pressured the two to talk during a conference of 27 European and Mediterranean countries.

Israeli-Palestinian contacts broke down after Mr. Netanyahu ordered the start of construction in the part of Jerusalem where the Palestinians hope to establish a capital.

The issue has triggered daily riots in the West Bank and three bombings by Islamic militants that killed the three assailants and three Israeli women.

The West Bank was calm Wednesday as Palestinians prepared for the four-day Muslim holiday that commemorates the prophet Abraham's readiness to sacrifice his son for God. The holiday begins Thursday.

West Bank cities were packed with shoppers buying clothes and shoes for their children, flaky honey-soaked sweets and goat meat.

Palestinian activists involved in stone-throwing in the last few weeks apparently decided on a lull to allow everyone to have a quiet holiday.

Israeli officials said that there were concrete warnings that Islamic militants were plotting attacks against Israelis.

As a result, Israeli troops sealed the West Bank, barring the more than 1 million Palestinians living there from entering Israel.

Israeli soldiers frequently hitchhike from home to base and back, and several have been kidnapped by Islamic militants who picked them up at hitchhiking posts and later murdered them.

Zdenek Mlynar, Figure In Prague Spring, Dies

The Associated Press

VIENNA — Zdenek Mlynar, 66, a leader of the Czechoslovak Communist Party during the 1968 Prague Spring reform movement, died of lung cancer Tuesday, the Austria Press Agency reported.

Mr. Mlynar, a onetime fellow student in Moscow of Mikhail Gorbachev, turned from devoted party functionary to one of the most outspoken critics of the Communist regime.

As Central Committee secretary of the party under Alexander Dubcek, he was an important figure in the movement for "socialism with a human face."

Mr. Mlynar was expelled from the party in 1970. Seven years later, he co-founded Charter 77, an appeal for the Czechoslovak party and government to respect human rights. He was forced into exile in 1977.

John T. Landry, 73; Made 'Marlboro Man'

NEW YORK (NYT) — John Thomas Landry, 73, whose knack for marketing helped turn Marlboro into the world's largest-selling cigarette and whose love of horse racing inspired the Marlboro Cup, died of cancer on Sunday at his home in Bronxville, New York.

Mr. Landry spent most of his career at Philip Morris Cos.. He reached the top of his profession in 1963, when he oversaw development of the "Marlboro Country" advertising campaigns.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Eurostar's First-Class Taxi Deal

LONDON (AP) — Eurostar, the company that operates the Channel Tunnel passenger trains, is hoping to take more business from airlines by offering first-class passengers free taxi rides from the train station into central London or Paris.

Eurostar executives said Wednesday that their new "Premium First" round-trip tickets between London and Paris would cost £370 ($610) — about the same as first-class air fare — but taxi rides to and from the train stations would be included.

Air Portugal Sets a 2-Day Strike

LISBON (AFP) — A dispute over pilots' working hours will ground TAP-Air Portugal planes on April 24 and April 25.

The pilots' union called the industrial action after talks with management broke down Tuesday. The union says TAP-Air Portugal makes a frequent practice of calling pilots into work on their weekly days off or during their holidays.

Malaysia Airlines will begin flying to Cairo by October. The Malaysian transport minister said rising demand because of increased business contacts and tourism had prompted Egypt and Malaysia to establish the link. (AP)

India has ordered foreign and domestic airlines to install air safety systems by the end of next year. Aircraft with more than 30 seats that do not have a so-called Airborne Collision Avoidance System and transponders will not be allowed into Indian airspace starting Jan. 1, 1999. (AFP)

Retired U.S. Officer Won't Fade Away

By Bradley Graham
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Worried about the army's ability to withstand its recent sex scandals? Bothered by the navy's difficulties with the Tailhook affair? Convinced that the idea of integrating women in the armed forces is doomed?

What's a troubled military veteran to do?

Try running a full-page advertisement in The Wall Street Journal, which is what Richard Frederick did Monday.

A retired air force lieutenant colonel, he caught the Pentagon's attention by blaring in big, bold type his concern that something had gone awry and that military leaders were part of the problem.

What Colonel Frederick had in mind was what he considered the military's disastrous acquiescence in the feminist movement.

But he was quite elliptical in print, making no direct mention of women in the military.

Framing his ad as a memo to "flag and general officers, all services," he listed the subject simply as: "Failure."

"By your silence and inaction," he began, "you are abetting the destruction of the warrior spirit in the U.S. armed forces."

He then included a quotation from General Douglas MacArthur's famous 1962 farewell address at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York:

"The long gray line has never failed us. Were you to do so, a million ghosts in olive drab, in brown khaki, in blue and gray would rise from their white crosses, thundering those magic words: duty, honor, country."

Next came the notation "cc: Your Country," followed by Colonel Frederick's mailing address in The Woodlands, Texas.

Top air force officials did not quite know what to make of the ad. They ordered a report on his military record and learned that he had won a Silver Star in Vietnam flying F-105 Thunderchiefs, single-engine jet fighters that are now obsolete.

Colonel Frederick retired from active duty in 1971, worked for a time as a manager in a fiberglass plant and now flies planes for a major oil company.

But his newspaper-sized memo left air force leaders scratching their heads.

"The ad was viewed by the leadership of the air force, who collectively were unsure what message he was trying to communicate," a senior spokesman said Tuesday.

Reached by phone at his home in Texas, Colonel Frederick, 55, explained that his main complaint had to do with the integration of women into the military.

"You do not need men and women in close proximity to one another during combat," he said. "You don't need to have their attention diverted. A lot of these operations become brutal, and I don't think it's right to mix men and women together in a brutal environment.

"If women want to be in combat, they should be in units separate from men."

A full-page ad in national editions of the Wall Street Journal costs $137,302.56. But because Colonel Frederick's lament appeared only in the Washington-Baltimore edition, it cost him $10,425.12.

Asked what responses he had received, Colonel Frederick said reporters from four newspapers had called.

"That's all so far," he said.

Former Thai King Now 'Great'

The Associated Press

BANGKOK — More than 145 years after he died, the third king of Thailand's current dynasty is about to have "the great" added to his title, according to a press report.

The cabinet will change the appellation of Phra Nangklao, who ruled what was then Siam from 1824 to 1851, the Bangkok Post said. Two other kings of the Chakri dynasty have received the honor, including the current king, Bhumibol Adulyadej — who has reigned for 50 years — and Chulalongkorn, the fifth king (1868-1910).

Phra Nangklao extended Thailand's sovereignty over Laos and Cambodia and the country's southern provinces and built or refurbished many Buddhist temples.

"I'm free. I can move wherever I want!"

Like birds, people enjoy their freedom. With International Health Insurance freedom means that you can live wherever you want and still have all the advantages of the welfare society. Fill in the coupon, or call us today. We will send you further information on how our Worldwide Health Insurance Card can be of help to you, 24 hours a day, all over the world.

International Health Insurance denmark a/s

Please send me the prospectus on Worldwide Health Insurance — Herald T.
Name ..... Age .....
Address ..... Postal Code .....
City ..... Country .....
Tel. ..... Nationality .....
Send the coupon to: International Health Insurance denmark a/s

Denmark: Pilestræde 8, DK-1261 Copenhagen K. Tel.: +45 33 15 30 99. Fax: +45 33 32 25 69
Spain: Edif. El Ancla 6th, 5-2B/6D Barcelona (Sitges). Tel.: +34 (9) 5 247 14 04. Fax: +34 (9) 5 247 32 88
France: Nice-Etoile, 30, Avenue Jean Médecin, F-06000 Nice. Tel.: +33 (0)4 92 17 42 42. Fax: +33 (0)4 92 17 42 44
17.04
Web site: http://www.ihi.dk - E-mail: ihi@ihi.com

German Passport Holders heading for Singapore in April. 50% off at the stylish boutique hotel in Orchard Road, Singapore.

the Elizabeth
A Member of Far East Organization

☆ For Reservations ☆
Fax : (65) 732 3866
Internet : http://www.fareast.com.sg/hotels
E-mail : elizbp@pacific.net.sg

WEATHER

Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Jetstream — Unseasonably Cold — Unseasonably Mild — Heavy Rain — Heavy Snow

North America
Cold in the Northeast as a storm exits the coast. New York and Philadelphia will be windy and chilly with showers Friday and Saturday, while rain and snow will mix in the Poconos. At least several inches of snow are likely in higher elevations of New England. Mild and dry in the West.

Europe
Central and Eastern Europe will remain cold and windy through the weekend with snow across Norway and Sweden and as far south as Poland. London, Paris and Berlin will be dry and turning milder with sun. Spain and southern France will be warm, but there will be some showers in the area.

Asia
Tokyo will be cloudy with showers Friday, then cooler with some sun over the weekend. In Beijing, Friday will be mild with sunshine, then showers Saturday will usher in cooler weather. rain will continue across the valley of the Yangtze, while Hong Kong and Singapore will have showers.

Europe

	Today High	Today Low	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Algiers	21/70	13/55 pc	22/71	12/53 pc
Amsterdam	11/52	8/43 pc	13/55	8/46 pc
Athens	8/46	2/35 sn	8/46	1/34 pc
Athens	14/57	3/37 pc	13/55	2/35 pc
Barcelona	19/67	12/53 sh	17/62	9/48 sh
Belgrade	7/44	1/34 r	15/59	5/41 pc
Berlin	8/46	1/34 pc	14/57	3/37 pc
Brussels	12/53	6/43 pc	15/59	6/43 pc
Budapest	6/43	-2/29 sf	8/46	-1/31 pc
Copenhagen	8/46	2/35 pc	10/50	-1/31 pc
Costa Del Sol	21/70	10/50 t	23/73	10/50 s
Dublin	14/57	8/46 pc	16/61	8/46 pc
Edinburgh	15/59	7/44 c	15/59	6/43 s
Florence	15/59	4/39 c	18/61	6/43 pc
Frankfurt	13/55	6/43 s	16/61	7/44 pc
Geneva	12/53	2/35 sh	13/55	3/37 r
Helsinki	7/44	-6/21 c	4/39	-4/25 pc
Istanbul	14/57	5/41 r	11/52	4/39 pc
Kiev	11/52	3/37 r	7/44	1/34 r
Las Palmas	22/71	17/62 s	22/71	16/64 pc
Lisbon	18/65	14/57 c	21/70	12/53 pc
London	12/53	5/41 pc	16/61	7/44 pc
Madrid	21/70	8/46 sh	21/70	8/46 sh
Mallorca	16/61	13/55 sh	18/61	10/50 sh
Milan	15/59	3/37 r	15/59	6/43 sh
Moscow	13/55	7/44 sh	12/53	3/37 pc
Munich	8/43	-2/29 sn	12/53	2/35 pc
Nice	16/61	8/46 pc	12/53	8/48 r
Oslo	8/46	4/39 pc	8/46	-5/24 s
Paris	12/53	3/37 s	14/57	5/41 pc
Prague	8/46	-1/31 s	8/46	1/34 s
Reykjavik	8/46	7/44 r	8/46	6/43 r
Riga	6/43	0/32 c	4/39	-2/29 sf
Rome	15/59	4/39 pc	16/61	7/44 pc
St. Petersburg	6/43	-6/22 c	5/41	-3/27 c
Stockholm	7/44	-5/24 pc	6/43	-4/25 s
Strasbourg	10/50	3/37 r	15/59	5/41 pc
Tallinn	5/41	-5/22 c	2/35	-8/18 pc
Tbilisi	13/55	1/34 pc	16/64	5/41 pc
Venice	11/52	3/37 pc	14/57	7/44 pc
Vienna	9/48	-3/27 sf	14/57	4/39 pc
Warsaw	4/39	-4/25 s	12/53	-1/31 pc
Zurich	7/44	1/34 r	12/53	4/39 sh

Middle East

Abu Dhabi	32/89	21/70 pc	33/91	21/70 s
Baghdad	15/59	6/46 s	20/68	12/53 pc
Cairo	24/75	11/52 s	33/88	14/57 s
Damascus	18/64	3/37 s	22/71	7/44 s
Jerusalem	15/61	4/39 s	21/70	6/46 s
Luxor	33/93	11/52 s	37/98	14/57 s
Riyadh	30/97	21/70 s	37/98	17/62 s

North America

	Today High	Today Low	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Anchorage	3/37	-2/22 c	2/35	-4/25 pc
Atlanta	16/61	1/34 s	14/57	4/39 pc
Boston	11/52	4/39 r	14/57	4/39 r
Chicago	8/46	-1/31 s	12/53	4/39 pc
Dallas	23/73	11/52 s	23/71	12/53 pc
Denver	24/75	6/43 s	21/70	6/43 pc
Detroit	8/46	-3/27 pc	8/46	1/34 pc
Honolulu	28/82	22/71 pc	31/88	23/73 pc
Houston	24/75	11/52 s	21/70	11/52 s
Los Angeles	26/82	13/55 s	28/73	9/48 pc
Miami	28/82	17/62 c	23/73	15/59 s
Minneapolis	11/52	3/37 s	17/62	5/41 pc
Montreal	9/48	2/35 r	11/52	2/35 sh
Newark	20/68	21/70 c	20/68	16/64 pc
New York	13/55	4/39 sh	8/46	2/35 r
Orlando	28/79	18/64 pc	29/71	9/48 s
Phoenix	33/91	18/64 pc	29/84	13/63 t
San Fran.	20/68	10/50 s	19/66	10/50 pc
Seattle	14/57	7/44 c	17/62	7/44 c
Toronto	2/35	-4/25 sn	8/46	-1/31 pc
Vancouver	11/52	9/48 sh	14/57	8/46 c
Washington	12/53	2/35 sh	8/46	2/35 pc

Asia

	Today High	Today Low	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Almaty	21/70	8/46 pc	22/71	9/48 pc
Bali	32/89	21/70 pc	31/88	22/71 c
Bangkok	32/89	23/73 pc	31/88	23/73 pc
Beijing	23/71	8/46 s	23/73	13/55 s
Bombay	30/86	18/64 s	30/86	18/66 s
Calcutta	35/95	22/71 pc	34/93	22/71 pc
Chiang Mai	33/91	22/71 pc	31/88	22/71 pc
Colombo	29/84	23/75 pc	29/84	23/71 pc
Hanoi	27/80	21/70 r	27/80	21/70 c
Ho Chi Minh	30/91	24/75 pc	33/91	24/75 pc
Hong Kong	24/75	20/68 r	25/77	20/68 c
Islamabad	31/88	18/59 s	29/82	16/61 c
Jakarta	30/86	23/75 s	29/84	23/73 c
Karachi	34/93	20/68 s	31/88	19/66 s
K. Lumpur	33/86	23/71 sh	31/88	23/71 sh
K. Kinabalu	31/88	21/70 c	29/84	21/70 pc
Manila	33/91	23/73 pc	32/89	23/71 sh
New Delhi	35/95	15/59 s	35/95	20/68 s
Phnom Penh	33/91	22/71 pc	33/91	23/73 pc
Phuket	32/89	23/73 pc	31/88	23/73 pc
Rangoon	32/89	23/73 pc	31/88	24/75 pc
Seoul	16/61	9/37 pc	17/62	3/37 s
Shanghai	21/70	12/53 pc	18/64	14/57 r
Singapore	31/88	22/71 s	31/88	21/70 pc
Taipei	24/75	19/66 sh	27/80	21/70 r
Tokyo	18/61	11/52 sh	18/61	12/53 sh
Vientiane	25/77	20/71 r	27/80	21/70 c

Africa

Algiers	22/71	12/53 sh	15/59	8/48 r
Cape Town	18/64	8/46 pc	18/64	9/48 pc
Casablanca	18/64	11/52 pc	19/66	14/57 pc
Harare	31/88	12/53 s	31/88	11/52 s
Lagos	29/84	23/73 pc	31/88	23/73 pc
Nairobi	22/71	15/59 t	25/77	13/55 sh
Tunis	19/66	12/53 pc	14/57	12/53 r

Latin America

Buenos Aires	25/77	15/61 pc	26/79	15/59 pc
Caracas	28/84	23/73 pc	30/86	23/73 pc
Lima	26/79	20/68 pc	24/75	19/66 sh
Mexico City	23/73	11/52 c	26/77	11/52 pc
Rio de Janeiro	27/80	20/68 pc	28/82	19/66 pc
Santiago	23/73	6/46 pc	19/61	4/39 sh

Oceania

Auckland	17/62	12/53 c	18/64	12/53 pc
Sydney	24/75	16/61 s	21/70	16/66 sh

Legend: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f-ice, W-freezing. All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 1997

Printed by Newsfax International, London. Registered as a newspaper at the post office.

هكذا من الأصل

THE AMERICAS

FBI Crime Lab's Practices Badly Flawed, Inspector Reports

By David Johnston
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department's inspector general, after an 18-month investigation, said the FBI's renowned crime laboratory was riddled with flawed scientific practices that had potentially tainted dozens of criminal cases, including the bombings of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City and the World Trade Center in New York.

The inspector general, Michael Bromwich, announcing his findings Tuesday, said he had uncovered "extremely serious and significant problems" at a laboratory that for more than six decades, since its founding by J. Edgar Hoover in 1932, has been a symbol of the FBI's cutting-edge scientific sleuthing.

The investigation found that the laboratory's explosives, chemistry-toxicology and materials analysis units were rife with substandard performance that had forced FBI officials to review several hundred past and current cases to determine how many might have been jeopardized by faulty work.

The findings are expected to give added impetus to defense lawyers in scores of cases, including the defense in the Oklahoma City bombing case, which served notice in pretrial hearings months ago that it intended to challenge the integrity of the FBI investigation and analysis of physical evidence in the case.

The inspector general's report recognized the central role played by a chemist in the explosives laboratory, Frederic Whitehurst, who was responsible for the investigation after filing numerous complaints since 1989 about the laboratory's poor performance and the failings of his colleagues.

The report represented another blow to the reputation of the FBI and its director, Louis Freeh, who took over the bureau in September 1993 as the seriousness of the laboratory's problems began to emerge. In recent month., Mr. Freeh's competence has been under attack in Congress in connection with a botched interview with a suspect in the Olympic Park bombing in Atlanta and the release of FBI background files to the White House.

Mr. Bromwich recommended the censure, transfer or other discipline of five agents who worked in the laboratory, including the agent who first asserted that it had problems. He said the inquiry had found numerous instances in which FBI agents who work as scientific examiners had prepared sloppy reports, exaggerated their findings against defendants and inadequately documented their test results.

Moreover, the report found that supervisors had failed to supervise the examiners adequately, had allowed indefensible conclusions to go unchallenged and had left too much discretion to subordinates who reached findings unsupported by scientific evidence.

The report suggested that the laboratory had maintained its reputation for years even as its managers clung to outmoded methods and failed to respond to internal complaints.

The bureau's deputy director, William Esposito, expressed regret and acknowledged the criticism of the lab's performance. He said the FBI would focus "on how did we get to this point, and address these problems so they don't reoccur."

The problems seemed most serious in two major cases: the bombing on Feb. 26, 1993, of the World Trade Center, which killed six persons, and the bombing on April 19, 1995, of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, which killed 168 people. A group of Islamic fundamentalists were convicted in the Trade Center case. One man is on trial in Denver and a second defendant is scheduled to be tried later for the Oklahoma City bombing.

In the World Trade Center case, the report said an examiner in the explosives laboratory, David Williams, "gave inaccurate and incomplete testimony and testified to invalid opinions that appeared tailored to the most incriminating result." His testimony, the report said, "exceeded his expertise, was unscientific and speculative, was based on improper nonscientific grounds and appeared to be tailored to correspond with his estimate of the amount of explosive used in the bombing."

Mr. Williams was also assigned to the Oklahoma case, and the inspector general concluded that "many of the same errors commited by Williams in the World Trade Center case were repeated in the Oklahoma City case — principally that Williams based some of his conclusions not on a valid scientific analysis, but on speculation from the evidence associated with the defendants."

Mr. Williams's findings, the report concluded, were "tilted" to incriminate the defendants. For example, he determined that the Oklahoma City bomb was composed of ANFO, ammonium nitrate and fuel oil, not from chemical analysis but from a speculative judgment based on "the fact that one of the defendants purchased ANFO components."

The report found that Mr. Williams's supervisor, J. Thomas Thurman, failed to properly review his subordinate's work and that both agents should be singled out for "special censure" for their roles in the Oklahoma City case because of the "enormous national significance" of the prosecution.

Mr. Williams, who was transferred along with Mr. Thurman and two other agents in January in response to the inspector general's findings, said in a reply to the report that he had tried to provide rapid scientific evaluations based on information available to him at the time. But he acknowledged that he had "overstated" his conclusions in a report on the Oklahoma City bombing.

Mr. Bromwich said that he had not found any instance in which laboratory examiners had committed a crime or had intentionally faked forensic evidence, obstructed justice or lied about their findings in court.

So far, Attorney General Janet Reno said, prosecutors have identified 55 cases in which examiners might have committed errors serious enough to warrant advising defense lawyers of potentially exculpatory evidence. Of these, prosecutors have decided to turn over data to defense lawyers in 25 cases. In 13 of these cases that have gone to trial, Ms. Reno said, "there has been no change in the outcome of the case."

Anti-Crime Efforts Deemed Suspect

Study Declares Many Popular Programs Aren't Very Effective

By Fox Butterfield
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The most comprehensive study ever of U.S. crime prevention shows that some of the most popular programs, including boot camps, midnight basketball, neighborhood watches and drug-education classes in schools, have little impact. The study also questions the effectiveness of the nation's huge prison-construction program in the past two decades.

But the study, recently made public, found promising results from initiatives such as intensified police patrols in high-crime areas, drug treatment in prisons and home visits by nurses, social workers and others for infants in troubled families. The work was done for Congress by a team of criminologists at the University of Maryland.

Still, the study found that it remained difficult to assess federal crime-prevention programs because there was so little rigorous, scientific evaluation of their effectiveness.

The research, ordered by Congress last year, set out to determine the effectiveness of the more than $3 billion the Department of Justice grants annually to help local law-enforcement authorities and community groups prevent crime. The study, which focused heavily on programs to stop juvenile crime, was presented to Congress late last week and was the subject of hearings Tuesday by the House Judiciary Committee.

The study is more a compendium of existing evaluations of the various crime-prevention programs than an analysis of why each one works or fails. It reported that, according to new research, boot camps, midnight basketball, neighborhood watches and drug-education classes for schoolchildren tended to be short-term programs that did not fundamentally change the thinking or behavior of troubled young people or ameliorate the conditions in which they live.

But infant-visitation programs can have lasting effects on both the child and the parents because problems are dealt with early, the study reported. Similarly, recent research has found that the police can have an impact on crime if they focus their efforts on high-crime areas or work to stop petty crimes, such as vandalism, as a way to head off felonies.

Lawrence Sherman, chairman of the department of criminology and criminal justice at the University of Maryland and lead author of the report, said, "The most important finding is that we really can't tell how a majority of funding is affecting crime." A major reason for that problem, Mr. Sherman said, is that Congress has never insisted on the same kind of scientific evaluation of crime-prevention programs that it does, for example, in testing new drugs.

The reason for this laxity is that members of Congress tend to vote for anti-crime measures, like prison construction, if they believe that the programs are politically popular or if the programs fit the congressman's own views on crime, said a Justice Department official who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

In addition, the official said, while it is clear from research that violent crime is heavily concentrated in a few areas of large cities, most members of Congress vote to spread out the money to fight crime so that more districts are included, instead of concentrating the resources where they would have the most impact.

In fact, the report said, half of all homicides in the United States occur in the 63 largest cities, which have only 16 percent of the nation's population. Even within these cities, homicides are heavily concentrated in a few neighborhoods.

The study found that 60 percent of all crimes committed in the United States occur in 10 locales. "We know enough from research to conclude that the success of these crime-prevention programs depends on how well they are focused on high-risk crime areas," Mr. Sherman said.

But with programs like the one that calls for the addition of 100,000 police officers, a provision President Bill Clinton pushed for in the Crime Control Act of 1994, resources are being spread evenly across the country, not concentrated in the most vulnerable areas, he said. "We need to put the money where the crime is, not just where the votes are," Mr. Sherman added.

The study's findings on prison construction and drug-education classes in schools seem likely to produce criticism.

The drug-education program, called Drug Abuse Resistance Education, was founded in Los Angeles in 1983 and is now used in about 70 percent of the nation's public schools. The classes warn about the dangers of drug use and are taught by uniformed police officers instead of regular teachers.

The program, usually given to students in their fifth and sixth years of school, is extremely popular with parents. But the report said repeated evaluations had found that its "effects on drug use are, except for tobacco use, nonsignificant."

But Denise Gottfredson, a professor of criminology at Maryland and a co-author of the study, said: "DARE has its good points. It's in 70 percent of our schools, so I would never recommend stopping it."

POLITICAL NOTES

Dole Still Eyes the White House

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — Bob Dole has stepped back into public view to promote his wife, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, as a contender for the White House and to polish his legacy after his own failed bid last year.

In his first major address since his defeat by President Bill Clinton nearly six months ago, Mr. Dole told students and faculty at Harvard University that while his days in politics were over, that was not the case for "the Dole who yet may reside at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave." Repeatedly, he trumpeted Mrs. Dole's credentials as a two-time cabinet member and now head of the Red Cross.

Mr. Dole also reminded the audience of his record on behalf of the disadvantaged — something that often was obscured as he sought to appeal to conservatives last year.

"I believe in a government that is neither intrusive nor cold-hearted," he declared to a crowd of more than 800 Tuesday night. "I voted for civil rights laws because I know that no first-class democracy can tolerate second-class citizens. And I spoke up for the disabled because if a mind is a terrible thing to waste, so is a spirit." *(NYT)*

Hubbell's Agenda of Meetings

WASHINGTON — In the nine months after he resigned from the Justice Department in 1994 and before he pleaded guilty to charges of bilking his former law firm, Webster Hubbell had more than 70 meetings with Clinton administration officials, records show.

An appointment calendar, telephone message slips and other documents obtained by The Washington Post indicate that the extent of Hubbell's contacts within the upper reaches of the White House and the administration was much broader than was previously known.

After stepping down as the third-ranking official at Justice, the records show, Mr. Hubbell golfed with President Bill Clinton and met with several of his senior aides. A calendar entry shows he also had lunch with the secretary of the former White House counsel, Bernard Nussbaum, whose office had received a subpoena for the files of the late deputy counsel, Vincent Foster, days earlier. *(WP)*

Gingrich Weighs How to Pay Fine

WASHINGTON — Newt Gingrich, speaker of the House of Representatives, consulted ethics committee leaders Wednesday to determine if they would approve his use of a personal bank loan to pay a $300,000 penalty imposed by the House in January, associates and other Republicans said.

Mr. Gingrich told fellow Republicans at a closed meeting that he had not made a final decision on how to pay, and he assured them he would tell them in private before making an announcement. *(AP)*

Quote/Unquote

Representative Joe Barton, Republican of Texas, after the House did not muster the votes to pass a proposed constitutional amendment that would make it harder for Congress to raise taxes: "We need two things to get a two-thirds' vote. You need more Republicans, and you need to hold the vote in an election year." *(AP)*

Winslow Townson/The Associated Press

TAX PROTEST — Republican legislators from several states tossing copies of the U.S. tax code overboard at the site of the 1773 Boston Tea Party.

Away From Politics

• **American Indian soldiers** will be allowed to take the hallucinogenic plant peyote as part of their religious ceremonies under new guidelines adopted by the military. While it is illegal for most people, federal law permits peyote use by the 250,000 Native American Church members. *(AP)*

• **Incidents of anti-Muslim discrimination** increased threefold in the United States in the last year, but the number of violent attacks remained the same, according to a report by a Washington-based Islamic advocacy group. *(WP)*

• **A corporate executive was killed** and three other people were injured when their helicopter crashed into the East River moments after lifting off from a heliport in New York City. *(NYT)*

AMERICAN TOPICS

Forcing Students to Read the Classics

In a shot sure to be heard around the college world, Villanova University in Philadelphia has ordered its bookstore to stop selling Cliffs Notes, those handy synopses of literary classics known to generations of students.

It appeared to be the first such instance, and the move drew praise from faculty, who hope more students will now actually read the works they are supposed to be studying. But some students, and the publisher of the guides, were outraged.

In defending the decision, John Johannes, a Villanova vice president, said, "We are trying to develop in our students a capacity for inquiry." Ninety faculty members had signed a petition against the guides, which one professor called "a deadening packet of information."

The Cliffs Notes company, based in Lincoln, Nebraska, ran an ad in the school newspaper decrying what it called "book-banning and censorship."

Cliffs Notes started in 1958, offering guides to 16 Shakespearean plays. It now carries 220 titles, including newer authors like Toni Morrison and Amy Tan.

Short Takes

To the dismay of parents, hardy head lice appear to be a growing problem among school children. Federal health officials do not track lice outbreaks, which are not known to spread disease, but state officials say the trend is clear, with California reporting a 20 to 30 percent increase in the number of cases in a year. The chief factor, authorities say, is not bad hygiene but the tiny pests' increasing resistance to over-the-counter remedies, most of which use a natural insecticide derived from chrysanthemums. Some parents are finding that the only sure cure is very short hair.

A lesbian has sued a suburban Philadelphia cemetery for refusing to include the phrase "life partner" in the epitaph of her friend, who died three years ago of cancer. The suit, brought by Sherry Barone, alleges breach of contract in the handling of the headstone by the cemetery. Ms. Barone said that her friend, Cynthia Friedman, wanted the phrase "Beloved life partner, daughter, granddaughter, sister and aunt" on her headstone. To date, it remains blank. Ms. Barone's lawyer, David Buckel, said the cemetery's refusal answered the questions: "Why aren't legal documents enough? Why do gay people need the right to marry?" A cemetery spokesman declined to comment.

Just a year after the Massachusetts legislature made the Boston Cream Pie the state's official dessert, Governor William Weld has roiled the political scene by placing his 232 pounds (105 kilograms) solidly behind the Fig Newton, named for the city of Newton. "You got to stick with Fig Newtons," he said. "Everybody I knew grew up with Fig Newtons."

International Herald Tribune

The Teenie Beanies Take Off

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Move over, Tickle Me Elmo; you're last year's news. The smaller siblings of Beanie Babies are creating a sensation at McDonald's restaurants.

A five-week stock of Teenie Beanies has evaporated after just five days at restaurants in some areas, and "they probably won't be around much longer" anywhere else, said Lisa Howard, spokeswoman for the company said. McDonald's ordered nearly 100 million of the colorful beanbag toys.

Saint-Gobain
on the Internet

http://www.saint-gobain.com

The sensation of time

CONCORD®
Watchmakers Since 1908
S W I S S

CONCORD
SARATOGA® SL
Pure pleasure
on the wrist...
Gold:
rich, solid,
eighteen karat
(coupled with
stainless steel),
milled by hand,
link by link,
into a timepiece
that quickens
the pulse.

Chaulia Jewellers
London, Great Britain
Tel.: +44 171 49 39 833

Airbijoux
Geneva Airport
Geneva, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 798 89 86

ASIA/PACIFIC

New Problem In Reporting Nuclear Leak Angers Japan

Reuters

TOKYO — Supporters and opponents of nuclear power united in anger with Japanese government officials Wednesday after another embarrassing incident forced the closing of a power plant.

The state-run Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp. was ordered to halt operations at its Fugen reactor in western Japan after it emerged that the agency had waited 30 hours before reporting a radiation leak Monday.

Local government officials in Fukui Prefecture said that 11 workers were exposed to small doses of radiation in the accident. "The amount of radiation the workers were exposed to was within permissible limits," an official said.

The incident was seized upon by opponents of nuclear power, who question the government's plan to increase Japan's dependence on atomic plants. Japan has virtually no oil or natural gas to provide electric power.

The nuclear power corporation faces legal action over its cover-up of details of an accident last month at a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant northeast of Tokyo.

In what has become a ritual for the company, it admitted it had erred and then apologized. It shut the plant Tuesday night.

"Our report was delayed because of our misjudgment," Norito Takeshita, head of the Fugen plant, said at a news conference Tuesday.

A company spokesman said technicians dealing with the leak had "relaxed" instead of reporting the problem.

"The report to authorities was delayed partly because the workers were so relieved once they found the cause of the problem," the spokesman said.

But the official explanations did little to appease Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who said he was disgusted by the incident.

"I saw the date of the accident and the date the PNC reported," he said. "It's completely hopeless!"

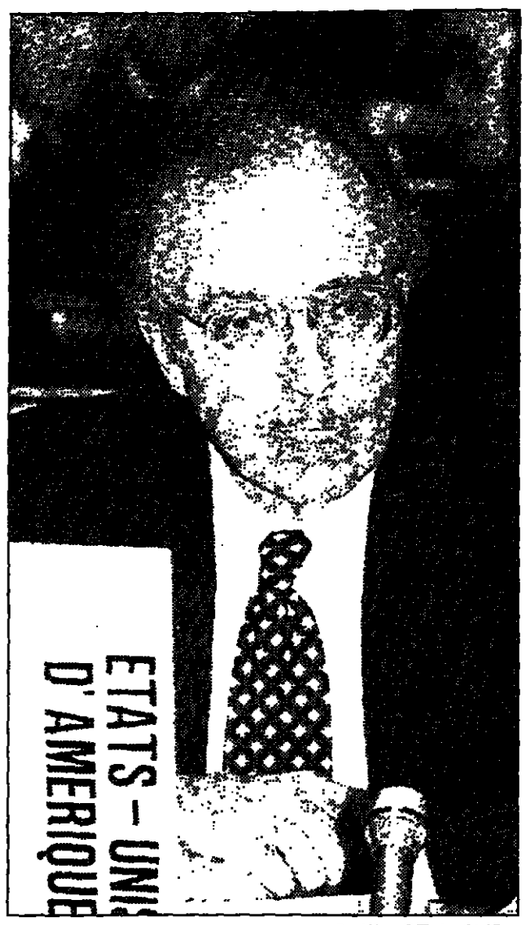
Last week he criticized the company for cover-ups in its report on the fire at the nuclear reprocessing plant, saying that the revelations left him speechless.

A government spokesman, Seiroku Kajiyama, said that the company "should be dismantled and start again from scratch."

His comments echoed those of the head of the Citizens Nuclear Information Center, Japan's largest anti-nuclear organization.

"Let's say *sayonara* to the PNC," said Jinzaburo Takagi, head of the center. "Now, instead of saying 'clean up your act' we should be telling the firm to 'please go away.'"

Later Wednesday, the Science and Technology Agency, which oversees Japan's nuclear power program, said it had filed a complaint with the police against the company and officials over what it said were inaccuracies in the report on the fire last month.



Donald Stampfli/The Associated Press

John Shattuck addressing the UN commission in Geneva.

Q & A / John Shattuck

Disappointed, Not Discouraged on China

At the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, China succeeded Tuesday in blocking a Western resolution criticizing Beijing. John Shattuck, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for human rights, spoke to Robert Kroon for the International Herald Tribune about the significance of the vote.

Q. Does the Human Rights Commission still serve a useful purpose?

A. Absolutely. I am disappointed by what happened in Geneva, but not discouraged. China's successful "no action" motion was a very serious attack on the commission's jurisdiction. No country has the right to claim it is above or beyond its jurisdiction.

But there's more involved than just a vote-count. This commission is the world's highest human rights body, and its purpose is to shine a strong spotlight on rights abuses in China or other countries. Even without the resolution passing, full attention was focused on China's human rights shortcomings in the preceding debate.

It is no surprise that some governments are less supportive of human rights than hundreds of millions of people around the world. The public is more aware then ever of human rights catastrophes in the world — like we've seen in Bosnia, Rwanda, Zaire, Haiti and Cambodia.

The potential for building new human rights institutions to avert, or at least predict, such disasters is greater than ever. In the long term, the struggle for human rights will be won even if we lose a short-term battle now and then.

•

Q. Beijing has punished Denmark and the Netherlands for taking the lead in the China resolution. China warned that an impending Airbus deal could be jeopardized, and France and Germany refused to co-sponsor the European Union's anti-China resolution. Isn't money the bottom line in the human rights equation?

A. In the long term, economic development promotes openness, but economic progress alone will not bring about human rights. The amount of energy the Chinese put into this issue indicates how seriously they take the commission as an effective human rights instrument.

Of course it is disappointing that some countries that took a lead in the past did not step forward this time. That was a serious setback, but despite the contentious debates, I still believe this is a dynamic time for human rights promotion.

This year, the commission has done well in condemning racial discrimination and supporting religious freedom and women's rights. Critical resolutions about human rights abuses in Cuba, the former Yugoslavia, Nigeria, East Timor, Sudan and Iraq did pass. The U.S. co-sponsored resolutions against Burma and Nigeria, which are in the grips of oppressive military regimes.

•

Q. The commission again criticized Indonesia for human rights violations in East Timor. What are your impressions of the situation there after your recent visit?

A. East Timor is one of the major human rights problems. The situation is very serious and human rights abuses must be addressed. Territorially speaking, we see the island as part of Indonesia, but the people should have a stronger voice in decisions affecting their own lives. The solution to the human rights problem in East Timor is greater autonomy, but an act of self-determination has never occurred. The best way is to bring together all parties concerned, and the new UN secretary-general has appointed a special representative for that purpose.

Top Beijing Envoy Accuses West Of 'Hostility' in UN Censure Bid

Reuters

GENEVA — A top Chinese diplomat accused the United States and other Western countries on Wednesday of displaying "hostility" toward Beijing by seeking to have a United Nations body censure its human rights record.

The envoy, Wu Jianmen, also suggested that the violent suppression of China's pro-democracy movement in 1989 would eventually be seen as having saved the country from anarchy.

"Relations between countries are like relations between people: If you are hostile to me, then I feel hostile to you," he said only hours after the UN Human Rights Commission rejected the Western censure bid.

He said China felt "resentful" toward countries like Denmark that proposed a resolution criticizing Beijing on human rights, which failed to get to a vote in the commission.

Mr. Wu did not specify whether Beijing would retaliate against the countries that supported the resolution.

But he said that if it came to a choice on a commercial deal, and there were equal offers from Denmark and France — which did not back the censure bid — then France would receive preference.

It was the seventh year in a row that the West failed to get a vote, with the defection of major powers like France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Canada and Australia.

India Ousted Coalition Queries Ally's Motives

Agence France-Presse

NEW DELHI — India's ousted coalition Wednesday asked an estranged ally, the Congress (I) Party, to formally withdraw its claim to power before accepting the party's support to form a new government.

Harkishan Singh Surjeet, a leader of the Communist Party-Marxist, said at a press conference here that Congress Party, which caused the political crisis by withdrawing support, was playing double games.

"Unless the Congress withdraws its letter to the president saying that it will form a government and extends support to us, there is no use in pursuing this matter," he said, referring to peace talks.

"They say they are still waiting," he added, "but for what?"

The Congress Party withdrew its key support for caretaker Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda on March 30, accusing him of pandering to Hindu fundamentalists and of inefficiency.

In a letter to President Shankar Dayal Sharma, the party said it would stake claim to power. But after Mr. Deve Gowda lost a confidence vote in Parliament last week, Congress backtracked, saying it would support a new leader.

"Does it mean they want to have a say? This is not acceptable to us. We will decide on a new leader only after they withdraw the letter," he said.

Mr. Surjeet said a top-level United Front meeting over the new leadership, slated for Thursday, would be rendered meaningless until the Congress had made its intentions clear.

The Congress Party maintains that its claim was aimed at preventing a "power vacuum" and keeping the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, the largest group in Parliament, from taking office.

No party in Parliament has the strength to form a government. The Congress has 139 members, while Janata has 160 seats and the United Front, a coalition of 13 centrist, leftist and regional parties, commands about 180 members.

BRIEFLY

China Denounces U.S. Delivery Of Fighter Planes to Taiwan

BEIJING — China criticized the United States on Wednesday for selling F-16 fighters to Taiwan, saying that the move had seriously harmed relations.

"The Chinese government has already voiced its strong opposition to the U.S. side," the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Shen Guofang, said in a statement.

Speaking a day after Taiwan took delivery of the first two of 150 F-16s, Mr. Shen urged Washington to abide by a 1982 Chinese-U.S. communique calling for a reduction in quality and quantity of arms sold by the United States to Taiwan. *(Reuters)*

Cambodia Prince Still Grounded

HONG KONG — Cambodian authorities blocked a new attempt Wednesday by the exiled Prince Norodom Sirivudh to fly home to contest charges of plotting to kill a co-prime minister, Hun Sen, leaving the prince stranded in Hong Kong for a second day.

"We have given firm instructions to decline any boarding of His Highness Prince Sirivudh," Royal Air Cambodge's chairman, Vichit Ith, said in the Cambodian capital.

Prince Sirivudh has been threatened with arrest if he returns to Phnom Penh.

He said Tuesday, after flying into Hong Kong from Germany, that he would persist in attempts to go home and seek a fair trial. He repeated this resolve Wednesday. *(Reuters)*

Seoul's Spotlight for Defector

SEOUL — South Korea prepared Wednesday for the arrival of a high-level defector from North Korea and indicated that he would be welcomed in the full glare of publicity.

Security officials in Seoul said that Hwang Jang Yop, now in the Philippines after fleeing on Feb. 12 through Beijing, would arrive soon.

They declined to give a date, but the state radio said Mr. Hwang would arrive early next week.

Information officials in Seoul are arranging facilities for the media, including foreign journalists, to cover the arrival of the most senior North Korean official ever to defect.

Foreign reporters were notified that four of them would be allowed to witness the event. *(Reuters)*

Senator Defiant in Australia

SYDNEY — Senator Mal Colston angrily rejected Wednesday a threat by Prime Minister John Howard to nullify his vote in the upper house of Parliament if he refuses to step down over fraud allegations.

Mr. Howard's move followed intense pressure for him to act against Mr. Colston, a former Labour senator who last year quit his party to give the Liberal-National coalition government a vital majority in the upper house.

"We won't accept his vote in the future," Mr. Howard said. "If he does decide to support the government on an issue we will arrange for one of our number to drop out of the division — so his vote in effect is not counted." *(AFP)*

VOICES From Asia

Hok Lundi, Cambodia's police chief, ordering security forces to step up vigilance and be prepared for terrorist threats following a rise in political tensions: "Every unit of the police should increase protection, security and stability in society and prepare to fight against all kinds of terrorist threats that violate the people's rights and especially increase protection for politicians, the press, diplomats, etc." *(Reuters)*

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFIED

Auto Rentals

RENT AUTO DERGI FRANCE WEEKEND: FF500. 7 DAYS: FF1500. TEL: PARIS +33 (0)1 43 68 55 55.

Announcements

Attention visitors from the U.S!

If you enjoy reading the IHT when you travel, why not also get it at home?

Same-day delivery available in key U.S. cities

Call (1) 800 882 2884 (In New York call 212 752 3890)

Herald International Tribune THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

FEELING low? - having problems? SOS HELP crisis-line in English. 3 p.m - 11p.m. Tel: Paris (01) 47 23 80 80

BAREME AS 24 AU 17 AVRIL 1997
Prix Hors TVA en devise locale (traduction disponible sur demande) Remplace les baremes anterieurs

FRANCE (zone C) en FF/I - TVA 20,6%
GO: 3,72 FOD*: 2,24
SCI97: 5,38 SCSP: 5,19

UK en /I - TVA 17,5% (Rou 8%)
GO: 0,5229 FOD*: 0,3476

ALLEMAGNE (zone I) DM/I - TVA 15%
ZONE I - G :
GO: 1,06
ZONE II - I :
GO: 1,03 SCSP: 1,39
ZONE III - F :
GO: 1,03 SCSP: 1,37
ZONE IV - F :
SCSP: 1,37
ZONE IV - G :
GO: 1,04 FOD: 0,61

BELGIQUE en FB/I - TVA 21%
GO: 22,07 FOD: 10,48
SCI97: 32,98 SCSP: 30,91

HOLLANDE (zone2) NLG/I - TVA 17,5%
GO: 1,231 FOD: 0,773
SCI97: 1,770 SCSP: 1,728

LUXEMBOURG en LUF/I - TVA 15%
GO: 19,30

ESPAGNE (zone A) en PTAS/I-TVA 16%
AU 16/04/97
GO: 83,53
SCI97: 101,55 SCSP: 102,41

* Usage reglementé

Herald International Tribune THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

PLANNING TO RUN A CLASSIFIED AD?

Place your Ad quickly and easily, contact your nearest IHT office or representative with your text. You will be informed of the cost immediately, and once payment is made your ad will appear within 48 hours. All major Credit Cards Accepted.

EUROPE
FRANCE (HQ): Paris, Tel.: (01) 41 43 93 85, Fax: (01) 41 43 93 70. E-mail: Classified@iht.com
GERMANY, AUSTRIA & CENTRAL EUROPE: Frankfurt, Tel.: (069) 9712500. Fax: (069) 97125020.
UNITED KINGDOM: London, Tel.: (0171) 836 4802. Telex: 262009. Fax: (0171) 240 2254.

EUROPE
SWITZERLAND: Rolle, Tel.: (021) 728 30 21. Fax: (021) 728 30 91.

NORTH AMERICA
NEW YORK: Tel.: (212) 752-3890 Toll free: (800) 572-7212. Fax: (212) 755-8785

ASIA/PACIFIC
HONG KONG: Tel.: (852) 2922-1188. Telex: 61170 IHTHX. Fax: (852) 2922-1190.

Legal Services

DIVORCE IN 1 DAY. No travel. Write: Box 377, Sudbury, MA 01776 USA. Tel: 508/443-8367. Fax: 508/443-0183.

Business Opportunities

OFFSHORE BANKS
COMPANIES & TRUSTS
ASSET PROTECTION
IMMIGRATION/PASSPORTS
TRADE-FINANCE

ASTON CORPORATE TRUSTEES LTD
19 Peel Road, Douglas, Isle of Man British Isles
Tel: 01624 626591
Fax: 01624 625125
E Mail No. aston@enterprise.net

OFFSHORE COMPANIES
OCRA WORLD WIDE
* 750 READY MADE CO'S AVAILABLE
* FULL ADMIN & ACCOUNTING
* BANKING AND TRADE SERVICES
* TELEPHONE & MAIL FORWARDING
* CHINA BUSINESS SERVICES
Please contact Bart Dekker, MD
OCRA ASIA LIMITED
24-02 Bank of America Tower
12 Harcourt Road, Central, Hong Kong
Tel: 852 25220172 Fax: 852 25215399
E-mail: OCRA@OCRA.COM.HK
Web pages: WWW.OCRA.COM

IRISH NON-RESIDENT COMPANIES $350
Ideal tax-avoidance vehicles: Low profile, tax free European. Suitable for trading, consultancy & other activities. For immediate service contact:
Eilish Murphy, Director, Sovereign Company Services, 39 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2, Ireland.
Tel: + 353 1 6616490 Fax: 6616493

OFFSHORE COMPANIES. For free brochure or advice Tel: London 44 181 741 1224 Fax: 44 181 748 6558/6338 www.appleton.co.uk

Telecommunications

faxaway
email-to-fax/broadcast services
Low Cost Faxing via the Internet
SAVE MONEY!
Increase Efficiency!
Rates
UK 10 cents UK 29 cents
France 39 cents
* Six Second Billing
* AT & T Quality
A Service of
kallback 417 2nd Ave W. Seattle, WA 98119
Where Standards are Set, not Met
Tel: 1.206.301.7000
Fax: 1.206.301.7508
Email: info@faxaway.com
www.faxaway.com

Business Services

YOUR OFFICE IN LONDON
Bond Street - Mail, Phone, Fax, Telex
Tel: 44 171 499 9192 Fax 171 499 7517

Business Travel

1st/Business Class Frequent Travellers Worldwide. Up to 50% off. No coupons, no restrictions. Imperial Canada Tel: 1-514-341-7227 Fax: 1-514-341-7998. e-mail address: imperial@login.net http://www.login.net/imperial

Capital Available

COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS FINANCE available for any viable projects worldwide. Fax brief synopsis in English to Corporate Advances, (+)44-1273-621300.

Real Estate for Rent

Paris Area Furnished

Embassy Service
YOUR REAL ESTATE AGENT IN PARIS
Tel: +33 (0)1 47.20.30.05

AGENCE CHAMPS ELYSEES
Specialists:
Furnished apartments, 3 months or more or unfurnished, residential areas.
Tel: +33 (0)1 42 25 32 25
Fax: +33 (0)1 45 63 37 09

PARIS 8th, available 1/5/97. High class building, concierge. 4th floor, 3 rooms, all comforts. Tel: +33 (0)5 59 26 01 71.

AT HOME IN PARIS
PARIS PROMO
Apartments to rent furnished or not. Sales & Property Management Services. 25 Av Hoche 75008 Paris Fx:01-45611020
Tel: +33 (0)1 45 63 25 60

TROCADERO
EXCEPTIONAL VIEW, luxurious 4 rooms
Possible parking. FF20,000.
RESIDENCE CITY Tel +33(0)145271219

Switzerland

GENEVA, LUXURY FURNISHED apartments. From studios to 4 bedrooms. Tel: +41 22 735 6320 Fax +41 22 7328871

Holiday Rentals

Monaco

GRAND PRIX, Monaco, race/practices. 20th floor, studio, view casino sq. + Loews. Sleeps 4, also villa 10 min. Monaco, sleeps 6. Tel: +44(0)171 4082077.

GRAND PRIX MONACO Formula 1, owner rents apartment + terrace/roof, 4 days, 40 people, directly on the harbor, wide open view on the circuit. FF140,000 Tel: 37793302436 Fax 37793302437

International Herald Tribune ads work

CONFERENCES & EXHIBITIONS

Corporate Governance, Financial Markets and Global Convergence
Budapest, May (14) 15-17, 1997
20th Colloquium of the Société Universitaire Européenne de Recherches Financières **SUERF**,
7th Conference of the Robert Triffin-Szirák Foundation **RTSF**.
Information: Mrs. I. Haye
Herengracht 205, 1016 BE, Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: + 31 20 5208565; fax +31 20 5208606

INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT

You will find below a selection of employment offers published in last Monday's International Herald Tribune
For a copy of last Monday's paper, please contact Kimberly Guerrand-Betrancourt on Paris (0) 1 41 43 94 76

POSITION	COMPANY	CONTACT
MANAGEMENT Financial Engineer bilingual in French (ref: 2064)	Compagnie Bancaire	Compagnie Bancaire Mr. Tanguy Binder 5, avenue Kléber 75116 Paris - France
SECRETARIAT POSITIONS Bilingual Executive Secretary English mother tongue	a Private Investor	International Herald Tribune Box D-478 92521 Neuilly Cedex - France
Bilingual Executive Secretary (ref: MA 10)	International Company	COGEPLAN 2, rue Louis-David 75116 Paris - France

The 'Best International News' comes via the World's Daily Newspaper.

'Who's Who in Europe Survey' 1996

(Who are we to argue?)

The 'Who's Who in Europe Survey' 1996 shows that, amongst Europe's most influential people,
over twice as many consider the International Herald Tribune to be
'The best source of international news' as its nearest rival.
Dare we say that it's something you've thought for a long time?

You can get your copy of the survey via James McLeod in Paris on (33) 1 41 43 93 81.
Richard Lynch in New York on (212) 752 3890, or Andrew Thomas in Singapore on (65) 223 6478.

EUROPE

'Buy Russian' Pitch Flops

After Yeltsin's Plea, His Son-in-Law Picks Boeing

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin is urging millions of his countrymen to buy Russian products. But don't count on tectonic shifts in consumer buying habits: His own family apparently failed to get the message.

Just hours after the Russian leader's address Tuesday, the acting director of Aeroflot, who happens to be Mr. Yeltsin's son-in-law, announced that the country's flagship airline planned to sign a $400 million deal to buy 10 American-made passenger planes from Boeing Co.; Russian-made airliners are not of high enough quality, Valery Okulov, chief of Aeroflot, said.

Mr. Yeltsin's "Buy Russian" campaign comes hot on the heels of a drive by his new first deputy prime minister, Boris Nemtsov, to force government officials to use Russian-made cars on official business instead of Mercedes-Benzes or Volvos.

Not even Russian car manufacturers argue that their Volgas and Ladas are any match for their German or Swedish counterparts. But Mr. Nemtsov's idea of stripping bureaucrats of their imported sedans apparently had such a populist ring that Mr. Yeltsin decided to join in.

"This is only a first step," said Mr. Yeltsin, who endorsed the foreign-car ban for bureaucrats.

"I want our people to prefer Russian products, to wear Russian-made suits and shoes, to buy Russian refrigerators and Russian furniture," he said.

The campaign, as the president himself acknowledged, will be an uphill slog. Leave aside the fact that his own foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, appeared on television stepping out of a Mercedes sedan.

Russians may grumble about the avalanche of foreign products, especially food, that has filled every cranny of city grocery stores, but after dreary decades when imported products were unavailable to all but the Communist Party elite, most consumers have an insatiable appetite for anything imported — from Mars bars to Maytag washing machines.

Mr. Yeltsin seemed to entertain few illusions about the vastness of the challenge. He said he would not go beyond exhortations and did not plan to seek legislation barring foreign products or protecting Russian manufacturers.

To do so could be folly: Russia does not manufacture much of anything except weapons these days, and what it does make is often of inferior quality.

Russian focus groups tell researchers they prefer some Russian foods to foreign ones, which are widely thought to be tainted by too many preservatives and chemicals. But despite what they say, sales of foreign foods have skyrocketed since the Soviet Union's collapse, spurred by massive advertising campaigns and superior marketing and distribution procedures.

But Mr. Yeltsin pressed the point anyway. "Not all foreign goods are of high quality, as we have found out," he said. "Is Russian chocolate worse than imported chocolate? No, it's better. And what about bread, sausages, dairy products and beer. Not to mention vodka!"

Yeltsin and Kohl to Talk About NATO and Art

The Associated Press

STUTTGART — President Boris Yeltsin of Russia arrived in Germany on Wednesday to discuss NATO's expansion and the status of so-called trophy art from World War II with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany.

Mr. Yeltsin was scheduled to meet with Mr. Kohl on Thursday in Baden-Baden and was said to be considering offering him a work of art as a goodwill gesture, despite opposition in the Russian Parliament.

Russia and Germany both believe they have legitimate claims to the thousands of art treasures seized by conquering Soviet troops at the conclusion of World War II.

Vasil Donev/Agence France-Presse

WELCOME BACK— Supporters of Bulgaria's exiled King Simeon cheering upon his arrival Wednesday in Sofia for talks with President Petar Stoyanov.

A Divided Bosnia Gets One Currency

Reuters

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Bosnia's Serb, Croat and Muslim leaders have agreed to form a single central bank and an interim currency with different designs for each of its two territories, U.S. and Bosnian officials said.

After months of haggling, Serb leaders dropped a demand for two central banks and accepted the central bank concept set out under a peace treaty, Mirza Hajric, an aide to the chairman of the collective presidency, said.

As a concession to the Serbs, it was agreed that an interim bank note, called a "convertible coupon," would be issued with different designs, Mr. Hajric said.

"The concession was in the design issue, but the essence — that it is to be used throughout Bosnia — is more important," he said.

The convertible coupons, pegged at parity to the Deutsche mark, will be issued by one central bank and will not bear the names of Bosnia's two entities, the Muslim-Croat federation and Serb republic.

"The differences are in pictures, but they will not bear nationalist symbols, just some pictures acceptable to everyone," Mr. Hajric said.

He said an acceptable design had not yet been agreed but added that he did not expect the design issue to present a problem.

Political leaders are under pressure to adopt a central banking law, of which the currency is only one issue, to clear the way for an international fund-raising conference for reconstruction in the war-damaged republic.

Bosnia wants to sign a deal with the International Monetary Fund, which wants to see a functioning central bank and budget laws adopted before the conference. The conference is expected to be held at the end of May in Brussels.

The coupons may take as long as three months to be printed and are expected to be in use for about a year, until the government agrees on a permanent currency.

The agreement, announced Tuesday after talks attended by a U.S. envoy, John Kornblum, must be approved by Parliament.

Leipzig Rejects May Day Rally By Neo-Nazis

Reuters

LEIPZIG — A large neo-Nazi rally planned May 1 in the eastern city of Leipzig has been banned, officials said Wednesday.

They said they had prohibited the demonstration called by the rightist National Democratic Party because the German Trade Union Federation had already scheduled a rally for the same day in the city center.

"We simply do not have enough public space for the union and any other groups who want to demonstrate on May 1," said Helga Kaestner, director of the city's public order department.

She added that any counter-demonstrations against the extreme right would also be banned. "Leipzig cannot tolerate that kind of disruption," Ms. Kaestner said.

But she warned that because the event had been publicized across the country and on the Internet, the party was likely to submit a court appeal for permission to demonstrate, or to ignore the ban.

Allianz Opens Toll Hot Line

The Associated Press

MUNICH — Europe's biggest insurance company, Allianz AG, opened a multilingual telephone hot line Wednesday for questions about policies from the Nazi era.

The 24-hour toll number, (49) 89-4186-4413 for callers outside Germany, will be answered in German and English. In peak times, such as weekends, information will be available in 20 languages.

Allianz was among several companies sued in New York on charges of delay over claims of Holocaust victims.

BRIEFLY

Warning Comes With Cuba Deal

BRUSSELS — European Union countries Wednesday endorsed a plan to defuse a dispute with the United States over its sanctions against Cuba trade, but warned of retaliation if Washington reneges on the deal, an EU diplomat said.

Details of the accord were not immediately available. But diplomats said earlier that Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal and Spain had insisted on any endorsement being accompanied by a threat to reopen a World Trade Organization disputes panel if Washington took any action against EU companies that do business in Cuba.

European ambassadors agreed Monday to postpone an EU complaint to the Geneva trade body against the U.S. legislation, known as the Helms-Burton Act. *(Reuters)*

Defense Union Reaches Out

PARIS — The Western European Union will allow Iceland, Norway and Turkey to join NATO-financed operations by the European Union's defense arm, France announced Wednesday.

The move to bring the three members of NATO closer to the Western European Union appeared to be another effort by France, which presides at the moment over the latter organization, to establish a European defense pillar within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The pact was signed Tuesday in Paris by the 10 principal members of the Western European Union, said Jacques Rummelhardt, a spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry. *(AP)*

French Elections Up for Grabs

PARIS — The opposition Socialists could narrowly win parliamentary elections next March if they manage to forge a pact with Communists and Greens, according to an opinion poll published Wednesday.

"Less than a year from the normal date for general elections, the game is open," said the BVA survey for France 2 television and Paris-Match magazine.

It showed the Socialists with support of 28 percent of respondents and said the party could win 231 to 283 seats in Parliament, out of a total of 555 seats, excluding overseas departments. The Communists had 10.5 percent and the Greens 9 percent. The Communists could win 20 to 25 seats and the Greens 2 to 6 seats, the poll indicated.

It found that no group could expect to win an absolute majority, and showed the governing center-right coalition coming closest to that goal.

Credited with 38 percent of the vote, the Gaullist Rally for the Republic, the more moderate Union for French Democracy and minor rightist allies could obtain 234 to 306 seats, the survey said.

"The simulation that gives a potential majority to the left is highly unstable," it said. "A one-percentage-point shift between the candidates of the governing coalition candidates and those of the Socialist Party would give an absolute majority to one or the other." *(Reuters)*

Germans Hold ETA Suspect

MADRID — A German said to have been recruited by the Basque separatist group ETA to carry out attacks in Madrid has turned himself in to the police in Germany, the Spanish government said Wednesday.

Fritz Gary Siemund surrendered in Weisbaden on Tuesday evening after seeing that his house was under surveillance, Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Orjea said.

The police said he was seen leaving an ETA safe house in Madrid on Saturday with three other suspected ETA members after a detonator accidentally exploded in the apartment: Inside, the police found nearly 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of explosives, fake license plates, three wigs, firearms and press clippings on politicians, business people and military officials. *(AP)*

Armando Babani/Agence France-Presse

SWORDS AND PLOWSHARES — An Albanian boy watching his cow graze in Vora as French soldiers roll in a convoy toward the capital, Tirana.

In this Friday's

Leisure

The Car Column

Toyota Picnic

LIVING IN THE U.S.?

Now printed in New York for same day delivery in key cities.

To subscribe, call 1-800-882 2884 (in New York, call 212-752-3890)

Herald International Tribune
THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

BARRY JAMES
Reporter

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Well-informed, newsbreaking, the ins and outs of current events.

If you missed his reporting in the IHT, look for it on our site on the World Wide Web:

http://www.iht.com

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFIED

Escorts & Guides

BELGRAVIA
ORCHIDS
LONDON - PARIS
THE FINEST & THE MOST SINCERE 18 - 35+ INTERNATIONAL BEAUTIFUL & ELEGANT STUDENTS SECRETARIES, AIR HOSTESSES & MODELS + AVAILABLE AS YOUR COMPANION 24HRS SERVICE WORLDWIDE Escort Agency Credit Cards Welcome
TEL: LONDON ++ 44 (0)
0171 589 5237

ROYAL PLATINUM SERVICE
ATLANTIC
LONDON PARIS NEW YORK
Switzerland Benelux Cote d'Azur WORLDWIDE ESCORT SERVICE
++ 44 (0) 7000 77 04 11/22
kiss@at-star.com

SWITZERLAND-GERMANY-BELGIUM
++31-20-427 28 27
Zurich-Geneva-Basel-Berne-Frankfurt-Mainz-Wiesbaden-Cologne-Bonn-Dusseldorf-Munich-Berlin-Brussels-Antwerp + A: Vienna
LONDON: (0)171-978 6606
COSMOS Escort Agency - Credit Cards

AMSTERDAM * DREAMS * ESCORTS and Dinner Date Service for Him or Her. +31 (0) 20-64 02 111 / 64 02 666

EUROPEAN MODELS ESCORT
Service worldwide, only int'l top models
LONDON•PARIS•MONACO•MADRID
STOCKHOLM•HELSINKI•VENICE
GENEVA•ZURICH•MILANO•ROME
BRUSSELS•COPENHAGEN•CYPRUS
ISTANBUL•ATHENS•OSLO•LISBON
DUBAI•GERMANY•VIENNA•U.S.A.
Call for Europe: ++43-1-786 21 58
Call for USA: 212 257 3993 cards

INTERNATIONAL ESCORTS
World's First & Most Exclusive Service
Models, Beauty Queens, Actresses
Multilingual Travel Companions
Hdqtrs. 212-765-7896 NY, USA
office@intl-escorts.com
Rated "Best in New York" by New York Magazine. Service worldwide.

VENUS IN FURS
24HR WORLDWIDE ESCORT SERVICE
LONDON 0171 362 7000
All cards. Advance bookings welcome

MAIDENS OF MAYFAIR
London's Enchanting Escort Service
International selection aged 18 +
View photographs in Mayfair office
12 noon till late. 7 days.
Alex/Sara 0171 495 4772. Credit Cards.

SILVER STAR
DISCOUNT ESCORT SERVICE
LONDON - PARIS - NEW YORK
NEW YORK: 21 765 19 19
EUROPE: ++ 44 (0) 7000 74 57 87

HEIDI'S HIGH SOCIETY*VIENNA*PARIS
COTE D'AZUR & ZURICH * GENF
International Escort & Travel Service
Vienna ++43-1-5354104 all credit cards

BELGIUM UNFORGETABLE
Escort Service. 24/24.
Tel: 03/326.04 05

HIGH SOCIETY
Executive Escort Service
Germany, Paris, New York, London
Tel: London 0171 266 1033

******* EUROCONTACT INT'L *******
PARIS*STOCKHOLM*GENEVA*ZURICH
RIVIERA*BRUSSELS*LONDON*VIENNA
MILAN*ROME*all GERMANY & USA &
Reserve for ISTANBUL with MissGermany
Escort Service Vienna ++43-1-212 0431

GLAMOUR INTERNATIONAL
LONDON ESCORT SERVICE
0171 724 0771

MILAN*ROME*ITALY*LONDON*PARIS*
BRUSSELS*LUGANO*MADRID*MUNICH
D'DORF*FFURT*RIVIERA*VIENNA*SKI
AREAS*LYON*GLASGOW* Escort Service. Tel: 39 (0)338 852 3788 Cards

MILAN * ITALY * TOP CLASS
Julia Escort Service 39/ 0348.2251767

SWITZERLAND GERMANY*ITALY*
FRANCE. ZURICH: Top Model from Brasil Escort-Dinner & Travel Service. Simply the Best for Switzerland.
VOGUE 0041 (0)79 407 09 31

CHELSEA ESCORT SERVICE
51 Beauchamp Place, London SW1
Tel: 0171-584 6513

LATIN BEAUTY
CHARMING FRIENDLY PRIVATE ESCORT SERVICE
LONDON 0956 307 404

* PARIS & LONDON *
EXCLUSIVE, ELEGANT & EDUCATED Escort Service
London (171) 394 51 45

GENEVA PRETTY WOMAN
BASEL LAUSANNE, MONTREUX
Call 022 / 346 00 89 Escort Agency
ZURICH, LUZERN 079 / 441 10 88

HARMONY & NIRA. SPAIN
EXCLUSIVE Top Escort Service. English
Madrid-Tel: +34-1 366 35 68/908 818964
Barcelona - Tel: 34-3-296 86 98

BERLIN - "MARION'S"
Private Escort Service
Tel: 0172 - 301 45 95

BERN, BASEL, ZURICH
Escort Service.
+41/7788 55 05. All cards.

BLACK BEAUTY ESCORT SERVICE
Exclusive Elegant Educated & Friendly
London & Heathrow. 01819082261.Cards

CHLOE BEAUTIFUL MODEL
Private Escort Service
Tel: 0171 835 0971 All Cards

EMMANUELLE'S ESCORT SERVICE
** FRENCH SPEAKING **
LONDON 0171 262 2886 All Cards

FRANKFURT - DIANA
PRETTY ESCORT SERVICE
TEL: 0172 - 67 28 148

FRANKFURT-COLOGNE-DUSSELDORF
WIESBADEN-MAINZ-HEIDELBERG
Gabi's Escort Service ++49(0)171-5311805

"GENEVA"PARIS"
BUTTERFLY Escort Service
Tel. 022 / 731 90 81

HIGHLIGHTS
FRANKFURT INT'L ESCORT SERVICE
PLEASE CALL: 069 / 955 20 774

ISABELLA AQUINAS
ESCORT AGENCY LONDON
Tel: 0171 498 5789

JASMIN'S ESCORT SERVICE
LONDON 0171 935 0564
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

LUCY, FRIENDLY, Stunning + Elegant-Private Discreet Escort Service
Tel: 0171 624 8635

MORRISON CLUB - VIENNA ESCORT
Service. 5., Rechte Wienzeile 2a
0222/586 86 84

PERSIAN CATS & ASIAN ORIENTAL
CONTINENTAL Escort Service London
Tel: 0956 223317 24 hrs Credit Cards

ROTTERDAM WHITE'S
Escort Service. Weszeedijk 94
Rotterdam. Tel: +31 (0) 6 32039030

"SANDY" LONDON
Private Escort Service. London W1.
Tel: 0171-935 2525

ZURICH
Caroline Escort Service
Tel: 01-261.49.47

Harry's
Est. 1911, Paris
"Sank Roo Doe Noo"
A Space for Thought.

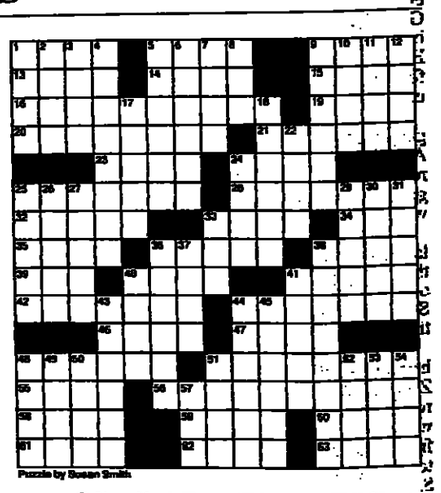
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Convince with smooth talk
5 Wallop but good
9 Like some pans
13 — lot (few)
14 Architect Saarinen
15 Is beholden to
16 Show authority, in a saying
19 Native of Novi Sad
20 Classic party activity
21 Rumpus
23 Sacred image: Var.
24 Fare-well link
25 Stay for a while
28 Reflects
32 Six-time U.S. Open tennis champ
33 Bistro
34 Divinity school subj.
35 Unaccounted-for combatants: Abbr.
36 Main impact of an attack
38 The Destroyer, in Hinduism
39 Danube city
40 Tom-tom
41 Traffic jam
42 Word with fruit or play
44 Famous park name, once
46 Baby sounds
47 Salve ingredient
48 Charm
51 Caverns
53 1948 film "The Fallen —"
56 Be substantial, as a meal
58 Combustible heap
59 Two-dimensional extent
60 "The wolf — the door"
61 Slave to detail
62 Where oysters hang out
63 Parker and Waterman

DOWN

1 60's civil rights grp.
2 Beery of 20's-40's films
3 — vez (again): Sp.
4 Soldiers
5 Precise
6 Fix, as a paper clip
7 "Trinity" novelist
8 Slough
9 More intrusive
10 John Irving's "A Prayer for — Meany"
11 Square, updated
12 Is loyal to
17 People of eastern Siberia
18 It's not automatic
22 "Present"
24 Govt. agent
25 Heist words
26 St. Teresa of —
27 Paper measures
29 Bay window
30 Variety show
31 Comedy type
33 Diploma word
36 Halloween transport
37 Box score column
38 Itinerary diversion
40 New Look designer
41 Certain investment, for short
43 Fishmonger's tool
44 Hauled
45 Island greetings
48 Crankcase item
49 Romantic interlude
50 Hurting
51 Skirt panel
52 French river
53 Israeli diplomat
54 Atl. speedsters
57 Check



Puzzle by Susan Smith

© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz

Solution to Puzzle of April 16

L	U	N	G	S		P	A	W		I	S	S	E	N
O	P	E	R	A		A	L	A		N	I	T	R	O
C	R	E	A	K		N	O	V		C	L	I	N	G
K	I	D	S	I	N	T	H	E	H	A	L	L		
U	S	S	S		O	H	A	R	A	S		E	B	B
P	E	D		P	O	E		S	W	E	L	T	E	R
		H	A	N	O	I				A	T	T	A	
I	N	N	O	C	E	N	T	S	A	B	R	O	A	D
N	O	E	L			S	K	U	I	L	K			
D	O	W	E	R	E	D		E	D	T		O	T	S
O	K	S		U	S	A	B	L	E		P	U	R	E
		C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	S	H	O	U	R
B	R	A	I	N		G	A	T		T	O	T	E	S
A	I	S	L	E		U	V	A		O	N	E	T	O
A	C	T	O	R		M	E	L		P	E	R	O	N

هكذا من الأصل

INTERNATIONAL

Toll Rises to 343 in Fire at Pilgrims' Camp Near Mecca

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MECCA, Saudi Arabia — The air was still thick with the smell of smoke and the ground was littered with debris Wednesday where 343 Muslim pilgrims, most from Asia, died in the inferno that ripped through their encampment near this holy city.

Saudi officials said the fire, which injured about 1,300 to 2,000 others, was an accident with no political motive.

Meanwhile, the 2 million pilgrims who escaped the fire moved up Mount Arafat, where the prophet Mohammed delivered his last sermon, to pray.

While the masses gathered for the climax of the annual pilgrimage, officials sifted through the charred wreckage Tuesday at nearby Mena, where the fire swept through 70,000 tents erected on a plain.

An Indian official said that about 150 of the dead were from India, and that other casualties were from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Thailand.

The charred state of many of the bodies is hampering identification of the victims. The authorities in Mecca required that all pilgrims hand over their passports upon arrival.

The fire was set off by a gas canister used for cooking and was fanned by strong winds, witnesses said. The Mena encampment is about five kilometers (three miles) south of Mecca.

No official reason has been given for the fire, but the authorities say they do not believe it was started deliberately. The governor of Mecca, Prince Majed ibn Abdel Aziz, said, "According to the first reports, we are talking about an accident as opposed to a criminal act."

This latest disaster reinforced the Saudi view that Muslim countries should stick to a quota system to avert problems during the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca.

In 1990, for example, more than 1,000 pilgrims were killed in a stampede. *(AFP, Reuters, AP)*

John Mummert/The Associated Press

Mrs. Albright talking with the superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy.

U.S. Puts Burma 'on Notice'

Regime Could Face Sanctions, Albright Says

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has put the Burmese leadership "on notice," saying the regime could face U.S. investment sanctions.

Mrs. Albright made the pronouncement during a speech Tuesday night at the U.S. Naval Academy here during which she also announced that she would go to Hong Kong to represent the United States in the ceremonies marking the return of the British colony to Chinese rule on July 1.

In the speech, she also reiterated that the United States was committed to military, economic and political stability in Asia and defended the policy of engaging China, despite concerns about its repression of dissent.

Noting Rangoon's crackdown on political expression and jailing of demonstrators, Mrs. Albright said that "Burmese leaders are on notice that, unless the clouds of repression are lifted, they will face investment sanctions under U.S. law."

A 1996 law allows President Bill Clinton to ban new U.S. investment in Burma if the military junta in power since 1988, the State Law and Order Restoration Council, arrests, harms or exiles the opposition leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, or suppresses her followers on a large scale.

"Our policy is to oppose repression and support a dialogue between the government and the democratic opposition," Mrs. Albright said.

"U.S. officials, myself included, have stressed to Burma's military the opportunity presented by a democratic opening," she added, characterizing recent actions by the regime as having a "corrosive effect on the Burmese government's standing at home and abroad."

The State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, called Mrs. Albright's remarks a stiffening of the U.S. position.

"It puts squarely before the Burmese dictators the proposition that without an improvement in the human rights situation, there is going to be action by the United States," he said Tuesday.

In reply, a Burmese spokesman assailed the United States on Wednesday for threatening Burma, which his government calls Myanmar.

"If the U.S. is so genuinely concerned about the human rights of the Myanmar people, why is it so necessary to deprive one of the most essential rights of the Myanmar people — the right to earn a living and support the family?" he asked.

"Does U.S. human rights mean priority of one favored person or a party is above everything else?" he asked. "And does the U.S. really believe that installing an overnight Western democracy is the cure for all developing, unstable and problem-ridden countries of the world?"

On July 1 in Hong Kong, Mrs. Albright, invited by the governments of China and Britain, will lead the American delegation to the ceremonies, which she said the world would watch "with a mixture of hope and concern."

She accepted the invitation only after considerable discussion within the Clinton administration over the diplomatic sensitivities involved in a ceremony that will celebrate the transfer of a vibrant colony to Communist rule.

China's actions as it moves to establish control over Hong Kong are increasingly being viewed as a test of Washington's China policy, particularly in Congress, where there is talk of threatening sanctions if China represses personal or political liberties.

Mrs. Albright said the United States supported "the preservation of Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and its way of life and basic freedoms." By attending the ceremonies marking the transfer of power, she said, "I will emphasize America's continued involvement in protecting our interests and supporting Hong Kong's people as they enter the Chinese nation."

(AFP, NYT, Reuters)

■ UN Assails Violations

The world's supreme body for human rights voiced concern about continuing rights violations by the military rulers of Burma in a resolution passed Wednesday, Reuters reported from Geneva.

The resolution adopted by consensus at the 53-member UN Human Rights Commission listed a long list of abuses including extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions, deaths in custody, torture, arbitrary arrests and forced child labor.

It extended the mandate of the special UN human rights investigator for Burma and urged Rangoon to cooperate with the envoy.

BRIEFLY

Algerian Market Bomb Kills 7

ALGIERS — Seven persons were killed and 26 were wounded when a bomb exploded in a market in Blida, 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of Algiers, witnesses said Wednesday.

The bomb, hidden in a flower pot, went off around 10:00 A.M. in a market packed with shoppers because of the Muslim feast of Eid al-Adha, on Thursday.

There have been several massacres of villagers recently in the Blida region, attributed to Islamic militants. *(AFP)*

Millionaire Is Held by Israelis

JERUSALEM — An Israeli millionaire linked to the illegal sale of chemical weapons components to Iran was brought before a Tel Aviv judge on Wednesday, 20 days after being arrested on his return to Israel from abroad.

The businessman, Nahum Manbar, in a closed court session, was ordered held for nine more days, and the judge partly lifted a news blackout on the case.

Mr. Manbar's case reportedly was raised in talks last week between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and senior U.S. officials, including the acting CIA chief, in Washington. The CIA provided new information to Israel on Mr. Manbar's links with Iran, the Ha'aretz daily said Wednesday.

The Tel Aviv magistrate barred reports on the precise nature of the accusations against Mr. Manbar, whose attorney, Amnon Zichroni, said his client was linked to a "serious offense against state security." *(AP)*

Iran Presses Case Against Bonn

TEHRAN — In a letter sent to foreign ambassadors here Wednesday, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran described as "biased and illegal" a German court ruling implicating the Iranian government in terrorism.

Mr. Velayati said the verdict last Thursday accusing Tehran of approving the 1992 slaying three Kurdish dissidents and their translator in Berlin was "more like a political manifesto than a legal document."

He added in his letter that the document had "no judicial value." *(AFP)*

Colombia Kidnapper Is Jailed

BOGOTA — A top leader of the Cali drug cartel has been sentenced to 28 years in prison, but for kidnapping, not narcotics trafficking.

Phanor Arizabaleta, considered No. 5 in the syndicate, was convicted and sentenced on Tuesday for ordering the 1992 kidnapping of Harold Barbosa, whose sister owed him $200,000. Drug traffickers in Colombia frequently use kidnapping as a means to recover unpaid debts or to force others to make good. *(AP)*

KOREA: *From China, a Terrifying View of Famine in the North*

Continued from Page 1

grumbling are growing in North Korea, Kim Jong Il and his government face no threat to their control, the woman and others said in an interview conducted this week in two cities in northeastern China, in a region heavily populated by ethnic Koreans.

Her view of the regime's stability was supported by another North Korean woman, Chinese businessmen and relatives who have recently returned from North Korea. "I doubt they will rebel before they all starve," a visitor concluded of the North Koreans.

On Monday, a Chinese-Korean family returned home, walking across the bridge to China from Namyang, after delivering rice and money to relatives.

"When I visited them three years ago, they had rice, if not much," the Chinese-Korean man said of his kin. "This time, oh, it is hell! There is no describing their misery." His wife said she was so shocked that she gave away everything she had.

Conditions in Namyang, though, are believed to be among the best in North Korea, thanks to gifts from relatives in China. But factories there have been shut for lack of fuel and homes are supplied with running water for only one hour a day, the family said. No rations have been distributed for a year, and the population of about 3,000 is surviving on corn porridge.

"We couldn't eat it," the man said. "It was fit only for pigs."

It took his relatives six days to travel the few hundred miles from their home to Namyang to meet them, since there is insufficient fuel to run the coal-fired trains.

"There is no coal because the miners cannot mine it. They're too hungry," he said.

But coal miners are supposed to get more food than anyone else.

In contrast, the ration for college students in Pyongyang is 16 kernels of corn a day, the North Korean woman said. "People have been eating wild plants and tree bark for several years now," she said.

Still, the woman vowed to return home soon. So did another North Korean woman, who arrived in China last summer — before the worst famine — looking like "a living skeleton," according to the relative who bribed a North Korean official $300 to let her out.

While acknowledging starvation, she defended Kim Jong Il's government against the angry complaints of her appalled, disbelieving relatives. "If only we had a big harvest, we would have no worries," she said.

Although both women were eager that the world hear of North Korea's plight, they asked that their names, hometowns and other identifying details not be given, because hunger and chaos have done nothing to lessen the harsh rule in their native land.

PARIS: *The Writer's Notebook*

Continued from Page 1

this great cultural divide in her recently published eighth novel, "Le Divorce." In it, the messy parting of the ways between an American woman, Roxy, and her French husband, Charles-Henri, becomes a metaphor for the apparent hopelessness of an *entente cordiale* between the two cultures.

Like Ms. Johnson, many of the American writers who move here have already won some recognition — or at least have been published — in the United States. Appreciation of the good life — and the high cost of living in Paris — in turn explain why many are of what the French call *un certain age*. But they rarely lose their ties to the United States and few become known in France. It is as if Paris were simply a mid-career reward.

"You can easily fit into Paris, particularly if you like long lunches and even longer dinners," said Ward Just, 61, a novelist who lived in Paris from 1986 to 1992 and still spends two months a year here.

Among those living here now are the novelists Harry Mathews, Jake Lamar, Mr. White and Ms. Johnson and the poets C.K. Williams and James Emanuel.

Ted Joans, a poet, recently moved to Seattle after 30 years in Paris; Brad Leithauser, a novelist, and his wife, Mary Jo Salter, a poet, are among numerous "come-and-go" Paris residents. And like Mr. Just, Alan Furst, a novelist, lived here in the late 1980s and early '90s.

The one prominent English-language author whose entire career has been spent in France is the short-story writer Mavis Gallant, who is Canadian but has always written for American publishers. In 1950, at the age of 27, she resigned her job as a journalist in Montreal, packed her bags and moved here, already fluent in French and convinced that only in Paris could she become a writer.

She did and, 47 years later, she is still here. The longest time she has spent away from Paris was a 10-month period as writer in residence at the University of Toronto in 1983 and 1984. Today her idea of pleasure is to sit in Left Bank cafés eavesdropping on her neighbors.

"But I never thought of myself as an expatriate," she said. "I'm just living somewhere else. 'Expatriate' annoys me, particularly when it is spelled 'ex-patriot.'"

Still, she has grown ever closer to France. In her early stories, she provided readers with the "bridge" of a foreign interlocutor.

"There was always a foreigner observing the French," she recalled. "Now the stories are more about the French themselves, and if there is a foreigner, it's the French observing the foreigner."

Yet she remains a foreign writer observing the French observing a foreigner.

As it happens, Mr. Just does his observing from the unusual perspective of speaking no French. "I can sit in a café and not have a clue what's going on around me," he said during a recent trip to Paris. "I am less interested in French culture per se than Americans in French culture. My people tend not to clash with French culture, they tend to disappear inside as you would disappear into a great forest — as I did."

Mr. White, 57, who moved here in 1983 "when all my friends in New York were dying of AIDS," has evidently made more of an effort to be integrated into French life.

"Paris is a great place for the middle-aged, walking about looking at books, long dinner parties, nice clothes," he said. "The French are reserved, but they have a cult of friendship. They also like writers, and you can have a certain cachet here."

Mr. White, whose books include "The Beautiful Room Is Empty" and "Genet: A Biography," has introduced Paris scenes into several of his novels, including his latest, "The Farewell Symphony." But the city is most present in "Our Paris," a short anecdotal nonfiction book with illustrations by his lover, Hubert Sorin, who died of AIDS in March 1994.

In contrast, Mr. Williams, 60, whose seventh volume of poems, "The Vigil," was published last year, has to resist becoming more French because his wife is French and he has many French friends.

"I am an American poet, so it is essential for me to keep my American identity," he said in a telephone interview from Princeton University, where he is teaching this semester. "I was never tempted to become French or even an expatriate."

Mr. Lamar, 38, a former journalist who is now completing his second novel, "Close to the Bone," said he was fully aware of the tradition of black American writers in Paris, but that was not the reason he moved here in 1993.

"I came mainly out of curiosity. I always feel a bit frustrated about the United States, but I didn't feel a need to escape."

Now, four years later, the city has become his reason to stay. "I was born and raised in New York and I love cities, but Paris is the best," he said. "I found a sense of freedom here, partly from being a stranger in a strange city. It is small, it has good transportation, it is relatively safe and clean, it is relatively multicultural."

He paused, as if remembering he was American, then added: "And the cultures, for the most part, are not at each other's throats."

SPANISH: *Who Controls the Language?*

Continued from Page 1

Carlos I of Spain to join him to inaugurate a five-day gathering of writers and linguists in April, which as far as anyone could remember was indeed what its title claimed, "The First International Congress on the Spanish Language."

The meeting gave Mexico a chance to assert its authority as the largest Spanish-speaking nation in the world.

Over the centuries Latin Americans have stretched the Castilian tongue with home-grown terms. These include many — like chocolate, chile and tequila — that come from the continent's earlier Indian inhabitants and that have made their way into English as well.

To make a point about the proliferation of the language, the novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez, one of the Nobel laureates, said at the conference that Ecuador had no fewer than 105 words for the male sexual organ, many of them unknown in Spain.

Various nations have adorned the language according to their local lights. In Andean countries the word *huahua* refers to a baby, but in the Caribbean a *guagua*, pronounced exactly the same way, is a public bus.

On the whole, Latin Americans have learned to live with and even celebrate their differences. Generally, they have only to open their mouths and fellow Spanish-speakers can tell exactly where they hail from.

As a result, at the conference, all was harmony on the surface. The site was Zacatecas, a central Mexican city whose rose-hued baroque churches and theaters were built with riches that once poured from colonial silver mines. The townspeople warmly welcomed the Spanish king.

Although King Juan Carlos was careful to treat Mr. Zedillo as his grammatical peer, in practice Spain continues to consider itself the final arbiter where the language is concerned.

Madrid is the home of the Royal Academy of Language, which publishes a dictionary that it regards as the last word on what is Spanish and what is not.

The academy has branches in most Latin American countries, but they are subordinate to Madrid. Its motto says the academy "cleanses, fixes and adds splendor" to Spanish, protecting it from debasing infiltrators. It can take decades, even centuries, for a common usage from the Latin American outback to pass the academicians' linguistic gantlet and be accepted as bona fide Spanish.

Since the last century, experts have been making lists of words that have wormed their way into Spanish from Latin America, but mostly to isolate them and to shower them with disdain. In 1868, when a Cuban philologist, Feliz Ramos i Duarte, came up with a first dictionary of "Mexicanisms," he described it as a compendium of "tainted" terminology.

The Royal Academy accepted about 600 new words from Mexico for the most recent edition of its dictionary in 1992. But on the opening day of the conference a hardy group of Mexican academics proudly presented a 561-page list of 69,566 words and phrases that originated here. They said it was the first step toward a new dictionary of Mexicanisms that would lay to rest any doubts about the legitimacy of the terms.

There was *naco*, a term Mexicans use to accuse one another of being vulgar and ignorant, which seems to have derived from the contempt that the Conquistadors had for the Totonacos, a pre-Columbian Indian nation. And *cuate*, a word for twins, is frequently used in Mexico to mean buddy.

Midway through the conference, its organizers received a huffy letter from the Royal Academy complaining that it had not been invited to attend.

The Mexican writer Octavio Paz, another Nobel laureate, sent a videotaped message to the conference.

"Many nations speak the Castilian language and identify it as their mother tongue," he said firmly. "However, none of these peoples has exclusive rights or property rights.

"The language belongs to everyone and no one."

There were other declarations of independence. Some Mexican language experts want the Royal Academy's overseas branches to become equal partners with headquarters in Madrid.

Mr. Garcia Marquez scandalized Iberian conservatives with an impish proposal "to simplify grammar before grammar simplifies us," by dropping the accent marks and either the letter "b" or "v" from written Spanish, since they sound exactly the same.

The Spaniards continued to worry that the popularity of the language was eroding its integrity.

Luis Maria Anson, publisher of the Spanish newspaper ABC, raved about the new novel by Mario Vargas Llosa of Peru but commented that he had found at least 60 words in it that according to the Royal Academy dictionary "are not Spanish."

TOBACCO: *Firms Meet Foes to 'Solve Social Problem'*

Continued from Page 1

Hubert Humphrey 3d, the attorney general of Minnesota, said "The industry understands they're on the ropes." He said proposals heard so far fell short of what the attorneys general were seeking.

News of the talks, which began in secret two weeks ago, sent tobacco shares up. Stock in Philip Morris was up $3.25 in late trading, at $42.25, while RJR Nabisco shares rose $3 to $33.25.

Some investors had been pressing for such an agreement, which would set a limit on what otherwise might be astronomical litigation costs. Tobacco makers now spend an estimated $600 million to $700 million annually to defend against liability cases.

Analysts say the industry would cover its added costs by increasing cigarette prices. Some said a settlement would send tobacco stocks soaring.

The impact on smoking would be far less clear. Widespread publicity in recent decades linking cigarette smoking to cancer, heart disease and other illnesses led to decreases in consumption of 2 percent to 3 percent for several years. But the rate has leveled off in the past few years.

Last month, Liggett Group broke ranks with other tobacco makers in dramatic fashion, agreeing to settle pending lawsuits by 22 states in exchange for concessions including admitting that nicotine is addictive and turning over thousands of pages of sensitive industry documents.

Liggett also admitted that smoking causes cancer and that the industry had targeted young people. Other tobacco companies attacked that agreement and sought to block release of the documents. But Liggett's move is thought to have made other tobacco makers realize the enormity of the legal challenge they could face. The documents reportedly include industry-wide discussions of tobacco dangers and marketing, and might be used to try to prove charges of fraud and conspiracy.

But Mr. Coale said the legal calendar was the biggest impetus for the tobacco firms to join talks. "From June on, we've got a slew of trial dates," he said.

The industry, long nearly immune to such suits, was jolted Aug. 9 when a Jacksonville, Florida, jury found Brown & Williamson liable for the lung cancer of Grady Carter, and awarded damages of $750,000. The case is under appeal.

Terms of a possible agreement in the Virginia talks, first reported by The Wall Street Journal, include the following:

The industry would accept regulation by the Food and Drug Administration, though it seeks to have the industry renamed the Food, Drug and Tobacco Administration to avoid the inference that tobacco is a drug; it would accept bans on cigarette billboards; and it would cease using pictures of people, like the famous Marlboro Man, in its ads.

The companies would pay as much as $300 billion — the final figure could be considerably lower — over the next 25 years to constitute a fund under which smokers could seek compensation. Smokers would generally lose the right to sue tobacco companies for smoking-related injuries and losses.

Such dramatic changes would require an act of Congress. Immediate congressional reaction was cautious.

Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey, the ranking Democrat on the Budget Committee, said he had "some degree of suspicion about the proposal," but that if it appeared to benefit the public health, it would certainly gain support.

A group of Democratic members of Congress led by Mr. Lautenberg called for strict conditions to be included in any settlement. Those include close regulation by the FDA, a campaign against teen smoking and more prominent warnings on cigarette packs.

TORIES: *Split Widens Over Plan for Single Currency*

Continued from Page 1

Worcester and a number of Conservative members of Parliament speaking privately, say the dissent signifies two things: individual Tory candidates trying to survive at the polls and early jockeying in a party-leadership contest that would follow Mr. Major's defeat May 1.

Those deviating from the "wait and see" line are doing so in their parliamentary constituencies, which in turn are being closely monitored by the national press.

Tory prospects looked bad enough before Wednesday's developments. With only two weeks to go until election day, various nationwide polls are little different than they were months ago — showing a gap of 15 to 25 percentage points in favor of Labour.

Polls focusing only on the most politically important constituencies — those that could swing either way — are even more discouraging for the Conservatives, suggesting that Labour could emerge with more than 200 seats beyond the total of about 330 it would need to obtain a majority.

The "single currency" plan would replace all the currencies in the 15-nation European Union with one new unit of money called the euro.

Besides evoking strong sentiments of national pride, the issue evokes strong feelings about national sovereignty, because all the central banks of Europe, which control monetary policy, would be merged into one.

The Labour Party has also adopted a "wait and see" approach, and while it is split as well on the single currency, it has kept the split quiet.

To make matters worse for the Conservatives, their claims of a booming economy also suffered a blow. A report in The Guardian, a pro-Labour daily, and a leaked government document reported by the Financial Times suggested that government figures showing significant and steady drops in unemployment were exaggerated and to some extent, faked.

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

No to Sweatshops

A newly proposed American code of conduct for domestic and overseas sweatshops makes useful pledges to improve the appalling working conditions of apparel workers around the world. But the code is so littered with loopholes that its impact will probably be limited unless public and press attention remains fixed on the problems of sweatshop workers.

The presidential task force that developed the code included industry giants like Nike, Reebok, L. L. Bean and Liz Claiborne, as well as representatives of labor and human rights groups. It got industry pledges to provide abuse-free factories, hire children at least 15 years old, limit the workweek to 60 hours and protect the right of workers to organize without fear of retaliation by their employers. The code also calls for companies to hire independent monitors who would work with local human rights groups.

This last provision is vital, since in oppressive societies workers would voice discontent only to groups that have gained their trust. Identifying and publicizing abuses is essential to improving conditions. The coverage of inhumane conditions at Central American factories turning out clothes for Wal-Mart under the name of Kathie Lee Gifford led to creation of the task force. Two years ago, the industry would have brushed off any proposal to monitor its Third World factories.

The weakness of the code is its lack of precise commitments. The accord suggests but does not require local independent monitoring of working conditions or public disclosure of infractions. The 60-hour limit on the workweek can be waived for what are called "extraordinary" circumstances.

Even if a follow-up commission strengthens the wording, the code cannot work unless American consumers penalize nonparticipants. Some companies will not sign the code. Warnaco, which makes Hathaway shirts, withdrew from the task force because the company fears that public disclosure of monitors' reports will reveal trade secrets to competitors. If consumers flock to lower-priced clothes produced by companies that ignore the code, the effort will fail.

The task force correctly rejected the idea of imposing a "living" wage, calling instead for companies to pay only the locally prevailing minimum wage. An externally determined wage would almost surely victimize the world's worst-paid workers. Manufacturers would close shop in countries like Haiti and Vietnam, where workers produce too little to cover the higher wage that employers would be required to pay, and reopen production somewhere else where factories are more productive. The more humane course is to rely on competition to drive up productivity and wages, as has happened in South Korea and other Asian economies.

At best, a voluntary accord that includes industry can accomplish only so much. The task force may help reduce the political heat on Bill Clinton, labor unions and industry to deal with the working conditions in faraway factories. Whether Third World workers will ever see a benefit depends on sharpening the code and intensifying disclosure of companies that violate its provisions.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Reno Is Still Right

We wrote a month ago that Attorney General Janet Reno seemed to us right, on the strength of what was then known, not to seek an independent counsel to investigate the fund-raising for the president's re-election campaign. Unless more turned up, the job could safely be left with the Justice Department's career prosecutors. We still think that.

This could change. But at this point it continues to seem to us that the tests for taking the extraordinary step of removing the case from the regular chain of command and naming an independent counsel have not been met. It was Congress itself — many of the same people now denouncing the attorney general for not seeking a counsel — that toughened the test, and rightly so in our judgment.

There needs to be specific, credible evidence that the president or another high official covered by the law committed a felony, or a conflict of interest — a real one, not just the appearance — that cannot otherwise be reconciled in prosecuting some lesser figure. You don't take the step just on spec. You don't do it just because a decision to prosecute or not could be politically awkward; a lot of them are. Nor do you do it just to fish.

The fund-raising practices in which the president and his people engaged were sleazy, unseemly, questionable, close to the edge — you name it. But so far it is not clear that they were illegal, or at least that the president and other covered officials engaged in such illegality. In a sense that is the problem. The law is so porous and weak that not enough is illegal.

The Republicans now denouncing Ms. Reno for what they portray as her flight from responsibility in failing to seek an independent counsel are at a disadvantage on this one. They yield to none in their indignation as to the president's behavior, but they also happen to be the chief defenders of the fund-raising system within or at the outer edges of which he was operating. They like the fact that the politicians have to go to the interest groups for campaign funds — "the American way," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott called it recently. They resist any serious effort to reform the system as an infringement on free speech. They no more than the president — he who now wants to reform the system he took such advantage of — can have it both ways. But they can try.

If the Justice Department were in different hands, we might have a different view of the decision Ms. Reno has made. She seems to us, as even to many of those on the Hill who disagree with her, to be a figure of integrity. The last thing she wants on her record is that she folded for political reasons in a high-stakes case such as this. That is true of the career prosecutors as well. It is no favor to the administration to have them on its tail.

Speaker Newt Gingrich has made himself the most outspoken of Ms. Reno's critics. Suggesting that she was turning a blind eye to laws she was sworn to uphold, he went so far on Tuesday as to liken her to Nixon administration Attorney General John Mitchell, a tarnished figure who, for his role in the Watergate scandal, was sent to jail. It is doubly a smear to have such a remark come from Mr. Gingrich. The speaker may think that the louder he declaims, the faster the public will forget his own considerable ethics problems. The reverse is true; the remark is a fresh reminder of what he seeks to blur.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

A New El Salvador

The most extraordinary thing about El Salvador's elections last month was not their results, which were startling, but how routinely they proceeded. One of the parties of former leftist guerrillas, known as the FMLN, doubled its parliamentary seats and won many important mayoralties. The rightist Republican Nationalist Alliance, or Arena, which now has only a one-vote margin in Parliament, respected the results. The army stayed in its barracks.

Since the end of its 12-year civil war, El Salvador has made remarkable strides toward a political system in which people can use elections, not violence, to work out their differences. It has a new National Civilian Police manned by former soldiers and guerrilla fighters. Political murder is now rare.

The guerrillas began the war in 1979 only after the left's attempts to use the political system were thwarted. When candidates who threatened the privileges of El Salvador's controlling families won elections, the army stepped in. Those days seem to be over.

The FMLN's important leaders are largely moderates. The man elected mayor of San Salvador was never a guerrilla. Arena has also changed. Many of the old landowners associated with death squads have softened their views or left the party.

The peace process has strengthened those on both sides who want to work together. New habits are forming.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1887

KATHARINE GRAHAM, ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER
Co-Chairmen

KATHARINE P. DARROW, Vice Chairman

RICHARD McCLEAN, Publisher & Chief Executive

MICHAEL GETLER, Executive Editor

• WALTER WELLS, Managing Editor • PAUL HORVITZ, Deputy Managing Editor
• KATHERINE KNORR and CHARLES MITCHELMORE, Deputy Editors • SAMUEL ABT and CARL GEWIRTZ, Associate Editors • ROBERT J. DONAHUE, Editor of the Editorial Pages
• JONATHAN GAGE, Business and Finance Editor
• RENÉ BONDY, Deputy Publisher
• JAMES McLEOD, Advertising Director • DIDIER BRUN, Circulation Director.
Directeur de la Publication: Richard McClean

International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.
Tel.: (1) 41.43.93.00. Fax: Circ., (1) 41.43.92.10; Adv., (1) 41.43.92.12.
Internet address: http://www.iht.com E-Mail: iht@iht.com

Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson, 5 Canterbury Rd., Singapore 0511. Tel. (65) 472-7768. Fax: (65) 274-2334
Mng. Dir. Asia, Rolf D. Kranepuhl, 50 Gloucester Rd., Hong Kong. Tel. 852-2922-1188. Fax: 852-2922-1190
Gen. Mgr. Germany: T. Schlinz, Friedrichstr. 15, 60323 Frankfurt/M. Tel. +49 69/97 1250-0. Fax: +49 69/97 1250-20
Pres. U.S.: Michael Conroy, 850 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Tel. (212) 752-3890. Fax: (212) 755-8785
U.K. Advertising Office: 63 Long Acre, London WC2. Tel. (171) 836-4802. Fax: (171) 240-2254
S.A.S. au capital de 1 200 000 F. RCS Nanterre B 732021126. Commission Paritaire No. 61337
©1997, International Herald Tribune. All rights reserved. ISSN: 0294-8052.

What Does Clinton Do if Tehran Proves Guilty?

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — Proteus as president. That is the story thus far of William Jefferson Clinton. Suddenly the ongoing search for specific, unmalleable form for his presidency and himself as a leader moves back to the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the Gulf, where an uneasy status quo is unraveling.

There is now a struggle inside the U.S. government to answer a question being posed with increasing urgency: What does Mr. Clinton do if clear evidence is uncovered that Iran, in a wanton act of murder by proxy, helped Saudi extremists bomb the Khobar Towers apartment complex in Dhahran and kill 19 U.S. airmen last June?

The struggle for Mr. Clinton's mind on Iran is a struggle over conflicting values and concepts of justice (areas where he is under attack at home) rather than a struggle over the realms of policy-making and diplomacy. This makes a difficult decision even more complex.

The case of responding to Iran's depredations is rapidly slipping out of the hands of the diplomats, who are paid to postpone or minimize conflict and pursue general principles, into the grasp of law enforcement officials, who are paid to pursue and punish specific criminals and who want action by yesterday.

If a smoking Iranian bomb fragment is found by the FBI, Mr. Clinton's decision would be shaped as well by America's military leadership, which would contribute its own values to carrying out the punishment of a foreign governmental crime.

Recent published accounts put Saudi suspects in touch with Iranian officials shortly before the bombing. These reports follow a flurry of unpublicized visits by senior foreign officials to Washington to gather information on possible U.S. military retaliation and its consequences for their nations. Figuring out how far Mr. Clinton will go on Iran is the No. 1 global diplomatic guessing game right now.

Shuler advocates extending the naval blockade now in force against Iraq to Iran.

His record here is one of equivocation. Early in his presidency he quickly ordered a cruise missile strike against Iraq to retaliate for an unsuccessful plot against George Bush. But he carefully tailored the strike to minimize enemy casualties as well as the risk to American lives. The missiles hit Iraq's intelligence headquarters late at night, killing janitors rather than the officials who plotted against Mr. Bush. Later military responses to Iraqi misdeeds and a pathetic failed covert attempt to overthrow Saddam Hussein were similarly hedged.

That raises fears among Saudi officials and others that Mr. Clinton may launch "pinprick raids" against Iran if he does decide on retaliation. These would infuriate the Iranians and tempt them to lash out locally, without bringing about a change of behavior or regime in Tehran.

These fears help explain the Saudi ambivalence in cooperating with the FBI investigation into the Dhahran bombing. The Saudis do not want to wind up bearing the costs of limited American strikes.

The Pentagon has been reviewing potential target lists inside Iran since the Dhahran attack in Saudi Arabia (500 Americans were wounded, in addition to the dead). Last July, then Defense Secretary William Perry told a group of Dole campaign advisers that such lists had already been presented to the White House for possible action.

Target lists reportedly center on identified terrorist training centers, which would be easy targets for cruise strikes.

Terror camps, however, are easy to evacuate at a moment's notice. They can be repaired or replaced far more easily than major pieces of Iran's oil industry, which Mr. Clinton is no more likely to attack than was Ronald Reagan in 1986, when he ordered an air attack on terrorist camps in Libya.

Moammar Gadhafi still rules Libya, and the United Nations has determined that his agents carried out the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988. "Clinton has to think about what happened when Reagan tried retaliation on the cheap," says Henry Shuler, an international oil expert who was consulted by the Air Force on targets in Libya in 1986.

Mr. Shuler advocates extending the naval blockade now in force against Iraq to Iran if Iranian sponsorship of the Khobar Towers massacre is established. He does not underestimate the turmoil that this would create in oil markets or the difficulties with America's allies, but he prefers those problems to managing the downside of new pinprick raids in the Gulf. He makes a good case.

If Iran did commit murder of Americans by proxy, the one option that Mr. Clinton does not have is to do nothing. The ayatollahs, and Saddam, have handily survived four years of Mr. Clinton's "dual containment" policy in the Gulf. It is time for values of justice, not of policy, to prevail.

The Washington Post.

Anti-Western Beijing Touts 'Socialist Spiritual Civilization'

By Robert Elegant

HONG KONG — China's leaders are asserting that the West is not only bent on liberalizing their country's political and economic systems but is also corrupting its morals.

Jiang Zemin, chosen by the recently deceased paramount leader Deng Xiaoping as his successor, is president of China, secretary-general of the ruling Communist Party and chairman of almost every other major organ of power, including the party's Military Affairs Commission. But he is fighting for his political life against the new forces created when China decided to open its doors to the world and reform its economy.

The 15th party congress will this autumn decide Mr. Jiang's fate, either confirming him as the dominant leader or tossing him into the dustbin of history, as the Soviets used to say.

Mr. Jiang is a lifelong devotee of Marxist-Leninist dialectical materialism, but the chief plank in his election platform is "socialist spiritual civilization." That fuzzy notion does not necessarily accord with his pledge to foster the "socialist market economy" that Mr. Deng initiated.

"Spiritual" does not have the supernatural connotations in Chinese that it has in English. Nonetheless it concerns the human spirit, which is definitely not a material object.

For almost a century, Chinese Communists fiercely affirmed that only the material objects of this world really mattered. All else was superstition.

As a result of the economic reforms and foreign investment unleashed by Mr. Deng, China's material production is booming, in patches across the vast country. That economic surge is firmly based on the hard pragmatic materialism and the tough entrepreneurship of European, North American and Asian capitalists who are at once China's chief customers and its chief financiers.

In advancing his platform of "socialist spiritual civilization," Mr. Jiang seeks to blame foreign forces for many of the country's problems, including attempts to "Westernize and split" China, and weaken the culture and ideology of its people.

Such problems can indeed be a side effect of modernization. A certain decline in standards of civic behavior and a flagging of dedication to altruistic national goals was expected when Beijing began loosening its strictures and inviting foreign participation in economic development. As Mr. Deng once said, "We've opened our windows to the world, and some flies are bound to get in."

Mr. Jiang's problem is that the flies have become far more than the nuisance his mentor envisioned. The side effects of the opening are multifarious and pestilential.

China enthusiastically uses foreign capital and expertise to enable cheap labor to produce the flood of consumer goods that, among other effects, has produced a huge trade surplus with the United States, a development that Mr. Deng foresaw. But he miscalculated the deleterious effects of the widespread contacts with outsiders.

Yet the Chinese need no instruction in corruption. Long before the West intruded in strength in the 19th century, every imperial dynasty ended in a welter of graft, special privileges, exploitation, civic disobedience, banditry and revolt.

Today, however, corruption, particularly in the materially advanced sectors of China, is even more virulent. In Shanghai, for example, drug-addiction and trafficking, accompanied by gang warfare, and forced prostitution of young women and children are widespread. Every conceivable privilege, as well as public property, is for sale by nefarious officials.

The military and the police are preoccupied with private profit instead of their public duties. Theft and violence are rampant. Workers have to endure long hours of backbreaking toil under stringent discipline because they know that they can be replaced immediately from the vast pool of unemployed.

It is hardly surprising that the embattled central government of China advocates suppression of crime by long terms of forced labor and mass executions.

At the same time, the campaign for "socialist spiritual civilization" seeks to inculcate and elevate personal and civic morality. New folk heroes are constantly put forward as examples and inspiration to the people.

Since much of the corruption and abuse of power in China is homegrown and official, it remains to be seen how effective Mr. Jiang's campaign will be.

The writer, a former Asia correspondent for Newsweek and the Los Angeles Times, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Try Listening to the Opinion of East and Central Europeans

By Toomas Hendrik Ilves

The writer is the Estonian foreign minister.

TALLINN, Estonia — In the debate on NATO enlargement, everyone seems to forget to ask the affected party's opinion. Russian perceptions should not be dismissed without consideration, but neither should the views of 100 million East and Central Europeans.

The consensus in the 11 applicant countries is clear. From Tallinn to Ljubljana, it is accepted that NATO enlargement is a fitting conclusion to the Cold War, an integrative, unifying step in European affairs and a key move toward guaranteeing Euro-Atlantic stability.

Why has this unanimity on the desirability of NATO membership, which transcends political affiliation and extends well beyond government elites, emerged in Central and Eastern Europe? Not because of a sense of impending threat, but because of the recognition that NATO continues to fulfill a valuable function after the end of the Cold War.

In short, we want in for the same reasons that member countries stay in. We realize that NATO membership offers security and political benefits that cannot be obtained by acting individually. NATO has enlarged three times before, and it should do so again.

NATO's success in deterring aggression has demonstrated the value of collective security. The guarantee that any armed attack on a NATO member state will be treated as an attack against all NATO member states prevents attacks from occurring in the first place.

Pooling resources also makes collective security less expensive than going it alone.

Postwar history has shown that perhaps the most important gains from NATO membership, however, are political. The practical results of NATO membership in intra-European relations are clear. French-German reconciliation was pro-moted, Italy and Spain were reintegrated into Europe, and the relationship between Turkey and Greece was stabilized.

The aspiration to NATO membership has spurred positive steps in Eastern and Central Europe as Poland and Lithuania, Hungary and Romania, and the Czech Republic and Germany all have taken steps to improve bilateral relations.

History has brought home the value of peace and the necessity of neighborly cooperation to the region where the major conflicts of this century began.

NATO is the logical vehicle for structuring that cooperation and integrating the rest of Europe into Euro-Atlantic structures this time around.

The post-Cold War era has been an unusual period as countries focused inward and concentrated on domestic economic and political reform. But if NATO failed to enlarge, all that could change. Central and East European countries would be forced to search for other means to protect themselves.

The choice in NATO enlargement is between extending the stability that Western Europe has enjoyed for half a century to the whole continent or creating a new zone of instability.

Estonia strongly supports NATO's efforts to work out a special relationship with Russia. Russia remains a great European power and must be constructively involved in the creation of a new Euro-Atlantic security architecture. After all, as one of Russia's immediate neighbors, no country has a greater stake than Estonia in ensuring that Russia continues its democratic development.

At the same time, Russia stands to gain from stability on its western borders.

It is time for NATO to start looking beyond the July summit in Madrid. For those countries that continue to seek NATO membership after the first round of enlargement, the mantra "The door will remain open" must be credible. In the interests of European stability, the process of enlargement — the timing of subsequent rounds of enlargement and the substance of an enhanced Partnership for Peace — should be spelled out.

It would be risky indeed if, after all the excitement, the world should wake up on July 10, rub its eyes and wonder "What's next?"

The Washington Post.

Not a Bad Start for the Workers

By Bob Herbert

NEW YORK — President Bill Clinton's initiative in the fight against apparel industry sweatshops around the world was formally announced on Monday in a ceremony at the White House. Given the scope and complexity of the problems to be addressed, it is not a bad start at all. But it is only a start.

The Workplace Code of Conduct agreed to by the president's task force prohibits forced labor and the employment of young children in apparel factories, requires companies and their contractors to pay the minimum wage established by local law, recognizes the right of employees to associate freely and bargain collectively, and prohibits physical, sexual, psychological and verbal abuse or harassment.

The task force, known as the Apparel Industry Partnership, is a coalition of labor, human rights and consumer groups and several major apparel makers, including Nike, Reebok, Liz Claiborne and Nicole Miller. It will now set up an association to begin implementing the code of conduct, and to address some of the many important issues still to be resolved.

The companies that have joined the partnership have agreed to allow outside monitors to inspect their factories. And while the monitors will be hired by the companies, they will have to be approved by the new association and will be required in the course of their inspections to consult with human rights organizations concerned about the plight of sweatshop workers.

"It's a historic and significant beginning," said Jay Mazur, a member of the task force and president of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees. Referring to the apparel companies, Mr. Mazur said: "For a long time a large part of the world has been their oyster and they were able to do whatever they wanted. Now there are certain guidelines that are supposed to be followed."

His comments were tempered by a certain skepticism. "My concerns have to do with follow-through," he said. "It's like collective bargaining. It's one thing for them to say they're going to do it, and another to get them to do it."

Probably the biggest disappointment for people who have done pioneer work on the sweatshop issue was the inability of the task force to agree that all factory workers should be paid at least a subsistence wage. In places like Haiti and Vietnam, that is not enough to cover the most basic needs of a full-time worker.

"Until workers are paid a livable wage a sweatshop will continue to be a sweatshop," declared Medea Benjamin, director of Global Exchange, a human rights group based in San Francisco.

"Is that my primary concern? Yes," said Jeffrey Ballinger, who heads Press for Change, an organization that spent several years documenting conditions in Nike factories in Indonesia. He added, "We know it's the workers' primary concern."

There are other concerns. Will the inspections be thorough, and will abuses be made public? What good will it do to recognize that workers have a right to organize in China, which has exhibited such contempt for the concept of freedom of association? Will companies that operate in that kind of atmosphere be allowed to stitch "No Sweat" into their garments?

Will the "No Sweat" labels, so coveted by the companies, be meaningful guides for consumers, or will they be mere public relations devices that serve to obscure rather than eliminate workplace abuses? The latter could happen in the absence of real safeguards.

But at some point on difficult issues you have to take a chance. You have to move. If the companies act in good faith on just the issues that have already been agreed upon, many workers around the world will be helped.

Charles Kernaghan, director of the National Labor Committee and one of the most militant advocates for sweatshop workers, said: "We don't have the choice to sit on the sideline. This is a step forward, and now we have to fight to make this thing real and make it work."

The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1897: X-Rays' Virtues

NEW-YORK — Dr. Nikola Tesla lectured before the New York Academy of Science on his new discoveries, of which two concerning the Roentgen rays are important. First, the rays obtained are very powerful and produce clearer images than those produced by present methods. Dr. Tesla also said that Roentgen rays were formed by streams of minute electrified particles of matter projected from the bulb at an extreme velocity, and that the resulting vibration would ultimately lead to telegraphing without wires.

1922: Irish Turmoil

LONDON — There was much anxiety in London concerning the critical state of affairs in Ireland, where it was expected that, in response to Mr. De Valera's call to revolt, the Republican forces would give a repetition on a much more formidable scale of the Easter outbreak of 1916. Outside of Dublin, interest centred in events at Sligo, where Mr. Arthur Griffith, the Dail Eireann President, and his supporters had determined to address a meeting despite its prohibition by the local commander of the republican forces.

1947: Blast Kills 350

TEXAS CITY — At least 350 persons were killed and between 2,000 and 2,500 were injured in a terrific chemical explosion which razed this city of 15,000 inhabitants. The explosion, which shook the coastal region for miles around, originated aboard a French vessel, and started a chain of blasts at the Monsanto Chemical Corporation plant and other near-by industries. Raging fires spread throughout the entire area and burned through at least three huge oil refineries.

هكذا من الأصل

OPINION/LETTERS

Infectious Clintonitis: Blair Should Beware

By William Pfaff

LONDON — Will Clintonism meet its Waterloo in Britain's election? That mix of metaphors reflects the contradiction of an election campaign now half-completed here. Tony Blair, leader of what he calls New Labour, is campaigning as a Clinton-style New Democrat, and behaving like a frightened incumbent. Prime Minister John Major is playing the challenger.

Mr. Blair has for months been portrayed by polls and press as the next prime minister. But his poll lead has declined, and more than half the electorate now claims to see no difference between the parties — the first time this has happened in modern British elections. It is an indication that Mr. Blair could become the victim of his Clinton-style issue-free campaign.

As poll leader, his problem has been not to lose. When a national television debate was proposed, it was Mr. Blair who backed away. A "misspeak," as Washington likes to say, might ruin him. Mr. Major, on the other hand, robustly assumes that he can only improve his position.

Tony Blair became the Labour Party's leader after Labour's defeat in the 1992 national elections — a surprise defeat, be it noted; the polls had also said in 1992 that Labour would win. But in the United States, Bill Clinton won his presidential election that year, and Mr. Blair took note.

Old Labour's embittered and outmoded trade unionism and entrenched and opportunist Trotskyite "Militants" were at war with the middle-class reformism Mr. Blair represented. He imposed his ideas with force and political adroitness.

He saw Labour's only chance for success in becoming a classless "New Democratic" party acceptable to moderate voters. He freed the party from the reputation for budget and union irresponsibility that it had earned during the Callaghan and Wilson prime ministerships of the 1960s and 1970s.

Mr. Blair outmaneuvered the Militants who controlled many Labour town halls, and discarded Labour's traditional commitment to nationalized industry. He changed the rules that had given the unions a veto over Labour Party policies. Even Margaret Thatcher smiled on him.

He and his shadow education minister sent their children to private schools, easing middle-class anxiety over Labour's record on education. His own choice of a political career had been influenced by Christian socialist thought, and both he and his wife came to be seen as real rather than political churchgoers. That also marked Mr. Blair off from Labour's recent past, and recalled an older Labour tradition.

He succeeded in remaking Labour into a party which today appeals to the moderate but reform-minded citizen. To Tory voters, its unstated message is that it can provide the no-risk alternative to a Conservative government corrupted by too many years of power and increasingly abused privilege.

That is where things stood when the campaign formally began, at the end of March. Labour seemed a certain winner.

The Conservatives claimed credit for what they said was Britain's economic success story, and reminded voters of the bad old days under Labour. But not everyone was convinced that this bright new British economy really existed. The statistics might say so, but not even economists put much faith in Britain's official statistics.

Anyway, few Conservative campaigners seemed really to believe that their party had a chance to win. The Tories' recurrent money and sex scandals made many of them think that the party would be better off with a defeat.

However, Mr. Blair has now rekindled hope for Mr. Major. His determined avoidance of controversial campaign positions, his cautious positioning of Labour in the ideological shadow of the Conservatives — meant to reassure the crossover voter — seemed by last week to have become a negative rather than a positive factor for him in the campaign.

In the last two weeks there has been confusion or equivocation on Labour's platform commitments to new union legislation, on devolution of power to a new Scottish Parliament, on privatization and on relations with Europe and the European common currency.

The questions asked of Bill Clinton in last year's presidential campaign are now being asked of Tony Blair. What does he really stand for? Where are his principles?

Mr. Blair is not naturally a Zelig figure, despite his effort to become one in this campaign. There is too much to him to be able to pretend to be no one and everyone at the same time. But he has overlearned from Bill Clinton and now has put himself at risk.

The British electoral context is not the American. Participation is high, the formal campaign is short and concentrated, and the kind of television spot campaigning that obfuscates issues and camouflages candidates in the United States is outlawed here.

Britain's electorate is more demanding than the American, and less jaded and alienated. Mr. Blair was right to see that Labour had to move toward the center, as the New Democrats had concluded in the United States. But he was wrong to think that Clintonism as a campaign method was exportable. He and his party may pay for that mistake.

International Herald Tribune.
© Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

On Monet's Eyesight And Other Wonders

By Amy E. Schwartz

WASHINGTON — A decade ago someone sent me a squashed-looking photocopy of a poem called "Monet Refuses the Operation." It was a gentle monologue in which the Impressionist painter, advanced in age, explains to his doctor that no, he doesn't want to undergo cataract removal:

MEANWHILE

he's spent his whole life learning to see things blurry. The poet's name was Lisel Mueller, and I knew exactly nothing about her until last week, when it was announced she had won the 1997 Pulitzer Prize in poetry.

The poem itself contained considerably more information, though not about Ms. Mueller. With every rereading it seemed to bear more sharply on medical wonders and public conundrums from genetic engineering to cosmetic surgery — puzzles that, in the years since I first read it, have risen in visibility to make a fair bid for the status of Great Question of our age.

What if we can, in fact, fix the body — as it seems more plausible every year that we can? Lifesaving surgery, elective cosmetic surgery, Prozac, the lure of perfect children and the gene therapies and diagnostics done in the womb — does their magic open a promised land where we all function perfectly — or all function alike?

"Doctor," says Ms. Mueller's Monet, "you say there are no haloes/around the streetlights in Paris/and what I see is an aberration/caused by old age, an affliction. I tell you it has taken me all my life/to arrive at the vision of gas lamps as angels ...

"Fifty-four years before I could see/Rouen cathedral is built/of parallel shafts of sun,/and now you want to restore/my youthful errors ..."

This is fanciful, but only slightly. If Monet could have gotten his eyes fixed, should he have? And if Monet really just painted his canvases foggy and blurry because of a simple eye problem, does art go away?

With a cloning story every week, and the definition of "essential" medical care gone political beyond recovery, such questions are now so omnipresent as to approach cliché. They cloak the big shift we are only just beginning to glimpse: Unlike all those past generations that wrestled with their inability to curb pain and suffering in an uncaring universe, our struggles with the implications of our rising ability to do just that. If citizens with mood problems can fix them with Prozac, is every citizen entitled, or even maybe obligated, to have the treatment? And so on, and so forth.

Poets tend to see things ahead. It doesn't always matter exactly why, or how they happened to see, and in some ways it's helpful not to know too much: You can't tell, from the poem, whether Ms. Mueller really thinks Monet has the answer or whether he is just in a fine frenzy of artistic passion.

There are two equally good ways to get intimately close to a poet or novelist or musician, to nourish the feeling of connection with and affection for the thoughts in her head. The more usual one in an era of plentiful biographical material is to look for more — research your artist, read up on anything by her or about her, purchase a 700-page biography, join an Internet chat site and practice fandom. The other way is to keep reading the one poem you like over and over and over.

"Monet Refuses the Operation" kept getting blurrier and more intriguing the more times I read it: the photocopy got squashier-looking each time I dug it out to pass it along.

The Washington Post

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Women's Work

The excellent article on inequalities between men and women in France's political system *("French Paradox: The Absence of Women in Politics," April 14)* points out the complexities and persistence of women's disproportionately small share of decision-making power.

Research commissioned by the UN Development Program, published in our Human Development Report, confirms the facts in the story: France is in 40th place, after the Philippines, on a "gender empowerment measure," an international ranking of women's participation in business and government.

But even though the story was about France, it could have been written about nearly any other country of the world. No country treats its women as well as it does its men. UNDP studies show that although women everywhere have made tremendous gains in the past 20 years, "a global glass ceiling" still exists for them. Around the world, women occupy an average of only 14 percent of managerial and administrative jobs, 12 percent of parliamentary seats and 6 percent of cabinet positions.

Every government would be wise to heed these findings. Women are essential agents of political and economic advancement. Investing in their capabilities and empowering them to exercise their choices are the surest ways to contribute to economic growth and to the overall progress of society. History proves that whenever women have made choices for themselves and for society, they have chosen peace over war. And they have chosen equitable progress over progress exclusively for the rich and powerful.

Economic statistics highlight another aspect of the problem. Each year, global economic data fail to account for a staggering $16 trillion because they leave out the value of unpaid community and household work performed by women and men and underpayment of women's work in the market of prevailing prices. Of this, $11 trillion is the "invisible" contribution of women.

The world undervalues women's work and their contributions to society — not only in the political arena. If women's work were accurately reflected in national statistics, it might help shatter the myth that men are the main breadwinners of the world. And if governments acknowledged the true monetary value of women's work, laws would inevitably have to change and women might finally gain a fair share of the world's political power.

JAMES GUSTAVE SPETH.
New York.

The writer is director of the UN Development Program.

Sales Talk

Regarding "Secretary Cohen's Sales Talk Hurts Alliance" (April 14):

Defense Secretary William Cohen's recent "sales talk" has led many Koreans to wonder whether he is a top American national security official or an arms dealer in disguise.

Regarding South Korea's plan to purchase surface-to-air missiles worth a total of $1 billion, Mr. Cohen warned that it would be a mistake for the Korean government to opt for Russian SA-12s instead of American Patriot air defense missiles. While acknowledging that the Russians might well be offering "a good deal," he stated that it would not "play well in Congress at all" if the Korean government decided to accept the Russian offer — and take the missiles as an in-kind payment against a $1.3 billion Russian debt with Korea.

Maybe the combination of his extensive experience as a U.S. senator and lack of military experience has clouded Mr. Cohen's judgment. But he should remember that the first priority of military officials in any country is to safeguard the security of their nation by having their troops combat-ready and acquiring the most effective weapons systems. Pleasing Congress, while not an insignificant matter to consider for U.S. allies, should receive a secondary priority. In the current case, it is reported that American Patriot missiles, twice as expensive as the Russian SA-12s, are not suited to the Korean terrain and that the Russian missiles can be technically modified to solve the interoperability problem with U.S. equipment.

Fully aware that the United States has 36,000 troops stationed in Korea in a "tripwire" role, the Korean government buys more than 80 percent of its imported weapons from the United States, in addition to sharing the cost of keeping the U.S. troops in Korea. A thinly veiled threat like Mr. Cohen's can only strain the alliance between the two countries, an alliance crucial for the security of Northeast Asia.

While visiting Japan, Mr. Cohen reminded U.S. troops there that it takes only "one bad deed" to spoil U.S. relations with its allies. Perhaps he doesn't realize that a careless comment by a responsible official is also damaging.

PHILLIP WONHYUK LIM.
Seoul.

A Federal Europe

Regarding "The Thrust Is Toward Federation" (Opinion, March 27) by Roy Denman:

The writings of a few intellectuals do not represent a public debate on the shape of Europe. (Who is Altiero Spinelli, anyway — Italy's goalkeeper?) Institutions such as the European Council, the Council of Ministers, the European Commission and the European Parliament are remote from the ordinary citizen, and the ordinary citizen has very little influence over them. The British are absolutely right to be leery of a federal Europe, as are the Swiss, Norwegians and many Danes, Frenchmen and even Germans. But then maybe, like the British, they also dislike "wurst and garlic" and those who "babble away in foreign languages."

A single European currency does not have to happen, and currency fluctuations will not destroy the single market any more than they have until now. What the single currency would do would be to prevent devaluations against the Deutsche mark and result in even more regulations and hidebound interference from Brussels and Frankfurt.

The idea of a single European currency is being pushed by the German ruling elite, and not the average German citizen, because there is no public debate about it in Germany, unlike Britain. The British do not want to be part of any federal Europe with this increasingly arrogant, power-obsessed nation at its center.

Also, there is no either/or choice between joining a federal Europe and "unimportant isolation." The British are in fact the least insular of all Europeans, which is why the world communicates now in English and not in some other language.

BARRY WORD.
Hyogo, Japan.

Internet Regulation

Regarding "The Internet Goes on Trial, and So Does Democracy" (Opinion, March 26) by Charles Levendosky:

Mr. Levendosky fails to realize that to enjoy freedom, it needs to be well-regulated. This is why we have a police force to stop criminals from exercising their "freedom" to commit crime. This is why we need regulations to protect minors from tobacco companies' "freedom" to aim advertising at young people. This is why we have regulations to prevent pollutors from exercising their "freedom" to pollute.

The Internet is a wonderful thing. But it is also prone to misuse. We cannot allow this medium to be used by radicals and terrorists to vent their anger and preach violence against legitimate authorities as the so-called militias have been doing in the United States. The Internet also is being used by fringe elements to disseminate information about bomb-making. In addition, the Internet has increasingly become a chosen medium to promote pornography involving children.

To minimize these types of misuse, the Internet needs to be properly regulated.

MAHMOOD ELAHI.
Ottawa.

Dr. King's Killer

Regarding "The Surreal, Tragic Tale of the Kings and a Killer" (Opinion, April 3) by David J. Garrow:

Mr. Garrow writes that Dexter King's effort to extract the truth from James Earl Ray threatens to betray the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

This is surely unjustified. Even Mr. Garrow admits that Mr. Ray was in contact with racists who promised him a reward, and who probably abetted his flight to England.

Dexter King can be forgiven for drawing a connection between the anonymous death threats that tormented his father and the tragic fulfillment of those threats on April 4, 1968.

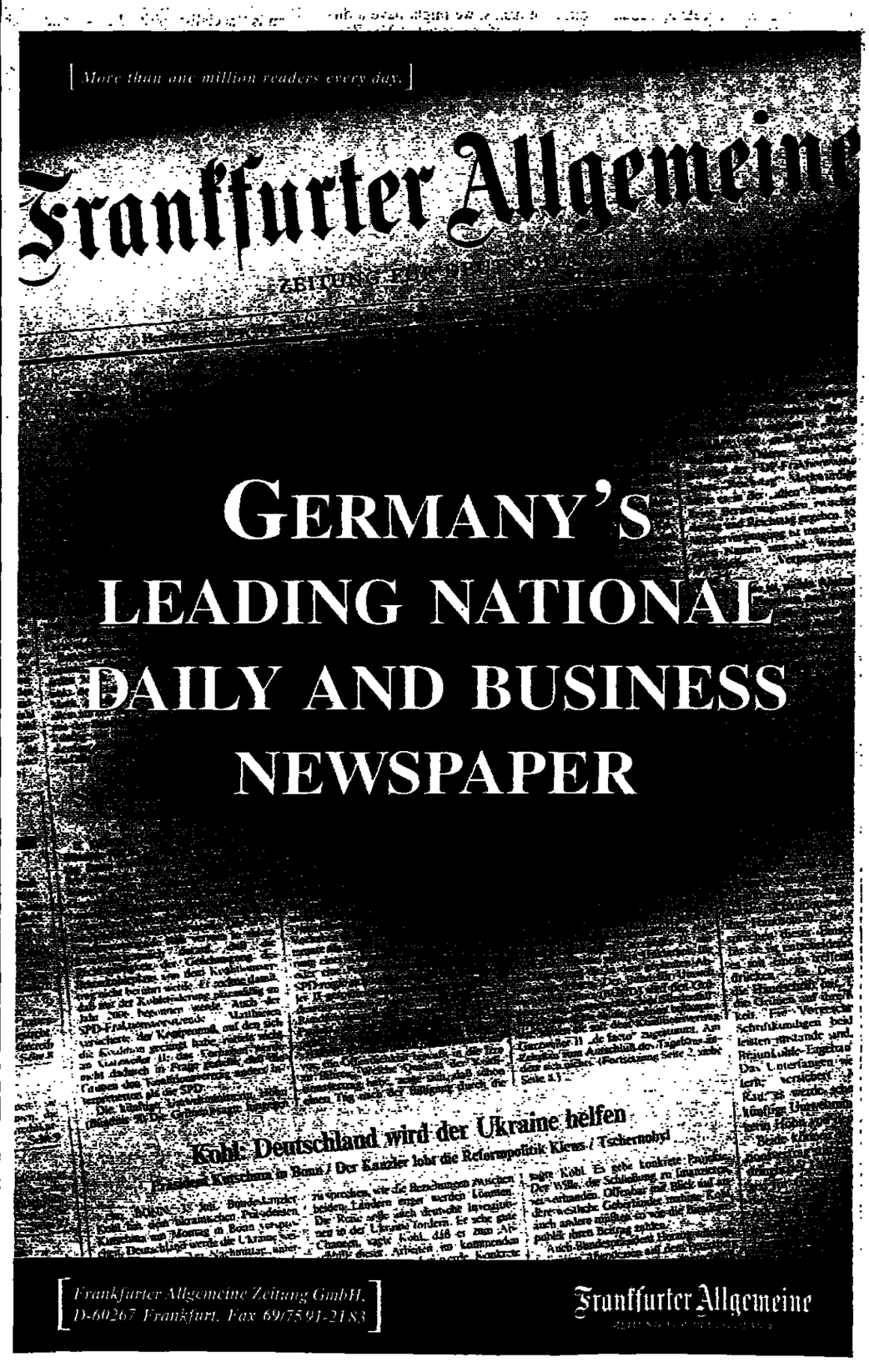
JOHN T. SPIKE.
Florence.

In Fashion

Regarding "It's Un-American" (Style, April 15):

Rather than seeing Calvin Klein's "origami folds" and Donna Karan's "transparent patches" for what they are — an expression of maturing fashion designers exercising imagination and seeking new expression — their work is dismissed as evidence of insidious European infiltration, corrupting the "purity" of American fashion.

TEYMOOR NABILL.
London.



INTERNATIONAL

Cashing In on the Clinton Connection: The Strange Tale of Mr. Lee

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

SEOUL — John K. H. Lee was trying to broker a lucrative business deal here in March 1996 when a dazzling floral tribute arrived at a dinner honoring one of his many enterprises.

The wreath of lilies and roses originated, according to a pink bandanna wrapped around the bouquet, from "The American Clinton, president of the United States."

The flowers were impressive evidence of Mr. Lee's White House connections, a convincing factor in the decision by a South Korean electronics company to pour $1.3 million into a U.S. venture with the businessman. The only problem, the White House says, is that President Bill Clinton did not send them.

In fact, according to documents filed with prosecutors here, the flowers were part of an elaborate scam allegedly perpetrated by Mr. Lee, 37, to bilk the electronics company, using the U.S. president's name as bait. South Korean authorities are now investigating Mr. Lee on the basis of a complaint filed by the company, investigators said.

Mr. Lee sent the flowers to himself as part of a plot to lure investors into believing that he had friends in high places in America, the company alleges. That impression was enhanced when Mr. Lee won a meeting with Mr. Clinton after making a $250,000 donation with company funds to the Democratic National Committee.

Mr. Lee's tale, revealed in documents and interviews in Seoul and Los Angeles, constitutes one of the stranger chapters in the Democratic Party's recent fund-raising troubles. It shows in the clearest terms the dangers inherent in the party's apparent practice during the 1996 campaign of selling "face time" with Mr. Clinton in return for cash.

While it has already been reported that Mr. Clinton played host to a convicted drug dealer, an alleged embezzler and a Chinese Communist financier and head of a military-owned arms company, the Lee story is the first instance of an alleged scam being perpetrated with the assistance, albeit unwitting, of the Democratic Party's lust for campaign donations.

The story of Mr. Lee's alleged scheme contains just about every ingredient of a bad novel. There is high finance — a Rolls-Royce, two new Mercedes-Benzes and a Beverly Hills mansion rented from a Saudi Arabian prince. There is low culture — an expensive karaoke machine and reports that Mr. Lee spent many nights entertaining South Korean nightclub hostesses at his rented California abode.

There is a damaged career: A California mayor, ironically a Republican, has been voted out of office, largely because of his involvement in the episode.

And there are lots and lots of apparent lies. Mr. Lee, who barely speaks English, claims to have a Ph.D. from a university in St. Louis that is not listed in an exhaustive directory of accredited universities and colleges. The supposed topic of his apparently nonexistent thesis: "Sin, Guilt and Guilt-Feeling."

Mr. Lee, who left the United States after stories about his donation to the Democrats surfaced last autumn, is now believed to be in South Korea.

According to sources in South Korea, the tale began in October 1995 when Mr. Lee met Young Chull Chung, then

His group chatted with Mr. Clinton, and the Democrats were $250,000 richer.

president of Ateck Co., a successful maker of state-of-the-art billboard-sized television screens. Mr. Lee was fresh out of jail, having spent at least three months in prison in the mid-1990s in connection with a bribery scheme in Seoul.

Ateck was a medium-sized company, with annual sales of around $50 million, that was looking for new markets. Several of its billboard-sized screens are in downtown Seoul, showing programming including advertisements and live news broadcasts.

Mr. Chung declined to be interviewed, but sources close to him said the South Korean businessman was impressed by Mr. Lee, a smooth-talking self-described devout Christian who once hosted a South Korean radio show called "Dr. Lee's Tales for Everyday Life," offering tips for an ethical lifestyle.

The pair met frequently and, according to sources close to both men, Mr. Lee tried to persuade Mr. Chung to invest Ateck's money in several projects. Mr. Lee, the company alleges, boasted of ties to politicians in South Korea and the United States. He said at one point that he was a stepson of President Kim Young Sam, Ateck sources said. He also said he knew people in the Democratic Party in the United States.

Ateck officials said Mr. Lee came up with an idea of making the TV billboards in the United States. He told Mr. Chung he wanted to become his partner and help spread the business abroad.

Mr. Chung said he would support Mr. Lee's idea to venture into the U.S. market if Mr. Lee could prove he had close ties with Mr. Clinton. Like many Asian businessmen, Mr. Chung believed that a direct conduit to the White House would guarantee success for his small company.

Mr. Lee and Mr. Chung formed an American subsidiary, Cheong Am America, based in Century City, California, to handle the U.S. operation. But before he would release money to Mr. Lee, Mr. Chung insisted on a direct meeting with Mr. Clinton, Korean sources said. Mr. Lee — and the Democratic National Committee — obliged.

Mr. Lee hooked up with Michael Mitoma, a Republican and the part-time mayor of Carson, California, who arranges investment opportunities in Asia and the United States. He is well known in Los Angeles' fast-growing Koreatown.

To secure Mr. Mitoma's help, Mr. Lee promised that he would locate the plant in Carson. Mr. Mitoma said Mr. Lee told him he wanted a meeting with Mr. Clinton and was willing to pay top dollar to secure a private audience. Mr. Mitoma called the Democratic National Committee and left a message. John Huang returned the call, Mr. Mitoma said.

Mr. Huang, a former Commerce Department official who worked as the party's chief fund-raiser in the Asian-American community in the 1996 campaign, is at the center of the Justice Department's investigation of illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party. He raised about $3 million for the party, much of which has been returned because of questions about its origins.

Mr. Mitoma told Mr. Huang he had a South Korean businessman who wanted to donate, and he said Mr. Huang offered several options, each with a price tag. Mr. Lee chose the most expensive — dinner with the president for five people at $50,000 a head, Mr. Mitoma said.

At no time, Mr. Mitoma said in an interview, did Mr. Huang inquire about the source of the cash. Under U.S. law, foreigners and foreign companies can contribute to U.S. political campaigns only if they are U.S. residents and only if the company has generated revenue for the contribution in the United States. Cheong Am had not done a penny's worth of U.S. business, so it was not legally entitled to make a contribution. It also is illegal to knowingly solicit or accept a contribution from a foreign national.

Mr. Huang arranged for Mr. Lee, Mr. Chung and several associates to meet Mr. Clinton in Washington on the evening of April 8, 1996. There was a brief introduction in the lobby of the Sheraton Carlton Hotel, Mr. Mitoma said.

The group spent five or 10 minutes with Mr. Clinton, Mr. Mitoma said, in which Mr. Mitoma explained the South Koreans' plan to make billboard-sized TV screens. Mr. Clinton wished them luck, somebody took a few photographs, and then Mr. Clinton walked away.

Mr. Huang took back to the committee a $250,000 check signed by Mr. Lee. After the contribution was first questioned by the Los Angeles Times last fall, party officials said they had accepted the money only because they believed it had been generated by a legitimate U.S. enterprise.

Ateck sources said Mr. Chung, who didn't understand Mr. Clinton, had been told by Mr. Lee that the president's good-luck wish was as good as gold. Weeks later, Mr. Chung wired $1.3 million to a Korean-owned bank in Los Angeles, giving Mr. Lee effective control of the money.

Mr. Lee then launched a shopping spree of immense proportions in Los Angeles. According to receipts obtained by The Washington Post, Mr. Lee kicked it off on April 30 by plunking down $32,000 for a 1979 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow. A day later, he bought a $40,000 Cadillac Fleetwood and an $85,000 Mercedes-Benz SL500R white convertible, both new.

He also concluded a deal to rent the Beverly Hills mansion of Prince Faisal Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia for $7,500 a month. On May 2, he bought a $4,000 leather chair. The next day, he got a black 1996 Mercedes-Benz S600V for $125,000.

He also bought three television sets, an $8,500 stereo, a $1,400 home karaoke set, $12,000 worth of other stereo equipment, $2,000 of home video equipment, and several thousand dollars' worth of cameras, clock radios and razors, the receipts show.

Finally, he bought an $18,949 Yamaha piano. Mr. Lee had told associates he longed to do a duet with Mr. Clinton, with him on piano and Mr. Clinton on sax.

Fernando Kang, who served as Cheong Am's executive secretary before its Century City office was abruptly abandoned in October, defended Mr. Lee's expenditures, saying he had bought the fancy goods only because Mr. Chung wanted them.

"Chung wanted to make Cheong Am America look like it was an important business," Mr. Kang said. "He ordered John Lee to buy all this stuff."

Last month, Mr. Mitoma lost his bid to for re-election as Carson's mayor. During the campaign, his Democratic challenger put out a leaflet accusing him of involvement in what it dubbed the "donorgate" scandal. Mr. Mitoma, for his part, said he wished he had never met Lee.

"You can't tell who's who in this world," Mr. Mitoma said. "I look stupid and this guy looks pretty smooth."

In a final twist, when the Democrats returned Ateck's $250,000 contribution late last year, it gave the money to Mr. Lee, not the company. Mr. Kang said Mr. Lee had spent it.

BOOKS

SPITE HOUSE: The Last Secret of the War in Vietnam

By Monika Jensen-Stevenson 371 pages. $25. W.W. Norton.

Reviewed by Richard Bernstein

ABOUT four years ago, after a congressional visit to Vietnam to look into the issue of American troops missing in action, three Vietnamese Army colonels were brought before foreign reporters in Hanoi to deny that any U.S. military personnel remained in Vietnam after the prisoner release of 1973.

It happens that one member of the visiting delegation had been Robert R. Garwood, a former Marine private who had remained in Vietnam until 1979 and contended that he had seen Americans in the country as late as 1977. To deal with that issue, one of the Vietnamese colonels told the reporters that Garwood was viewed by Vietnam "not as a U.S. prisoner but as a U.S. associate of the Vietnamese people, not an enemy."

That statement will have a striking effect on anyone who reads Monika Jensen-Stevenson's "Spite House: The Last Secret of the War in Vietnam." Jensen-Stevenson's book is a detailed defense of Garwood against the U.S. government's claim that he defected to the enemy in the Vietnam War and was a traitor.

Jensen-Stevenson's contention is that Garwood is the victim of a terrible injustice, one engineered by Vietnamese disinformation specialists during the war and, for reasons of bureaucratic self-preservation, sustained by the American military ever since.

But her allegations go much further than that, so far in fact that, if they are true, they should generate a tremendous scandal. First, there is her allegation, supported by information provided by former members of the Special Forces in Vietnam, that Garwood was for years the target of special American assassination teams whose task it was to kill other Americans believed to have gone over to the enemy.

Beyond that, Jensen-Stevenson asserts that special commando groups operating along the Vietnam-Cambodia border in 1973 actually did carry out assassinations of Americans who were believed either to have gone over to the enemy or to have engaged in unacceptable behavior, like drug smuggling. She says that a Bruce Womack told a Marine intelligence officer that he had been involved in 32 such assassinations.

It would take Womack a long time, Jensen-Stevenson writes, to recognize without self-delusion "what he had really been involved in: a free-ranging execution squad, dispensing rough, frontier-type justice without benefit of courts-martial."

These are, quite obviously, startling and sensational allegations of the sort that would seem to call for an exhaustive official investigation. One therefore greets these most alarming elements of Jensen-Stevenson's story with a reflexive incredulity, a reluctance to believe that such things could be true. And indeed, without more evidence than Jensen-Stevenson provides, it is almost impossible to verify whether the claims of "Spite House" are valid.

Much of her argument is persuasive, especially when it is backed up by the informed opinions of others. And yet skepticism, or at least a desire for further investigation, is justified as the overall response to this book.

Jensen-Stevenson, for example, does not seem to have spoken directly with Womack, who is her main source for her claim that dozens of assassinations of American soldiers took place. His story appears to have been related to her by others who knew Womack after the war.

Similarly, much of what she relates about the experience of Garwood in captivity, including being beaten, psychologically humiliated and made to witness executions of some who befriended him, comes from Garwood himself and cannot be verified by others. One story, for example, has Garwood camouflaging himself with mud and crawling past the guard post of his jungle prison so he could steal food for a sick American who later died.

Overall, "Spite House" has two intersecting stories. One is that of Garwood, who was the driver for a Marine Corps general in Vietnam. He disappeared on Sept. 28, 1965, just 10 days before his tour of duty was scheduled to end. When he was released by Hanoi in 1979, he was court-martialed for collaborating with the enemy, and he was eventually dishonorably discharged.

THE second story is about Tom Chase McKenney, a former Marine intelligence officer with the secret and later notorious Phoenix program in Vietnam. McKenney was briefed in 1968 by two American counterintelligence operatives who maintained that Garwood was not only a turncoat but also had led enemy troops in attacks on Americans. McKenney, who seems to be the source for much of Jensen-Stevenson's account, spent the next couple of decades nursing an intense hatred for Garwood.

The moral heart of Jensen-Stevenson's account is McKenney's conversion from a would-be assassin of Garwood into a believer in his innocence. Many elements of McKenney's change of heart and a good deal of additional material presented by Jensen-Stevenson are convincing.

But in general, Jensen-Stevenson's account of the "last secret of the Vietnam War" doesn't so much close the case on Garwood as it does raise questions about American conduct that cry out for further investigation.

Richard Bernstein is on the staff of The New York Times.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

THE world's oldest bridge club, predating the game, is the Portland in London. It was founded in 1825. The oldest on the other side of the Atlantic is the Hamilton in Philadelphia, which celebrates its 110th birthday this year. A founder was a 23-year-old lawyer named Milton Work, who became the great authority on auction bridge and the popularizer of the 4-3-2-1 point count.

Two Hamilton Club teams battled in June in the final of the Philadelphia City Championship. If East had bid five clubs at his first opportunity, North-South would no doubt have settled for a 300-point penalty. As it was, they managed to reach five diamonds,

NORTH
♠ A K J 7 2
♡ 5 4 2
◇ J 7 5 3
♣ 10

WEST
♠ Q 9 8 3
♡ Q 10 9 7
◇ 9 8
♣ K Q 3

EAST
♠ 10 4
♡ —
◇ K 4 2
♣ A J 9 8 7 6 4 2

SOUTH (D)
♠ 6 5
♡ A K J 8 6 3
◇ A Q 10 6
♣ 5

Neither side was vulnerable. The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♡	Pass	1 ♠	4 ♣
4 ◇	5 ♣	5 ◇	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West led the club king.

which had a chance, rather than five hearts, which would have been doomed by the bad split.

The East-West defenders were Fred Van Fleteren and Marty Seligman. East played the club two on his partner's club king lead, trying to suggest a heart ruff, but West correctly shifted to a trump. Dummy's jack was played, winning, and trumps were drawn with the help of the obvious finesse.

The declarer, Tom Halton, cashed the heart ace and then thought long and hard when the bad split was revealed. The position reached is shown at right:

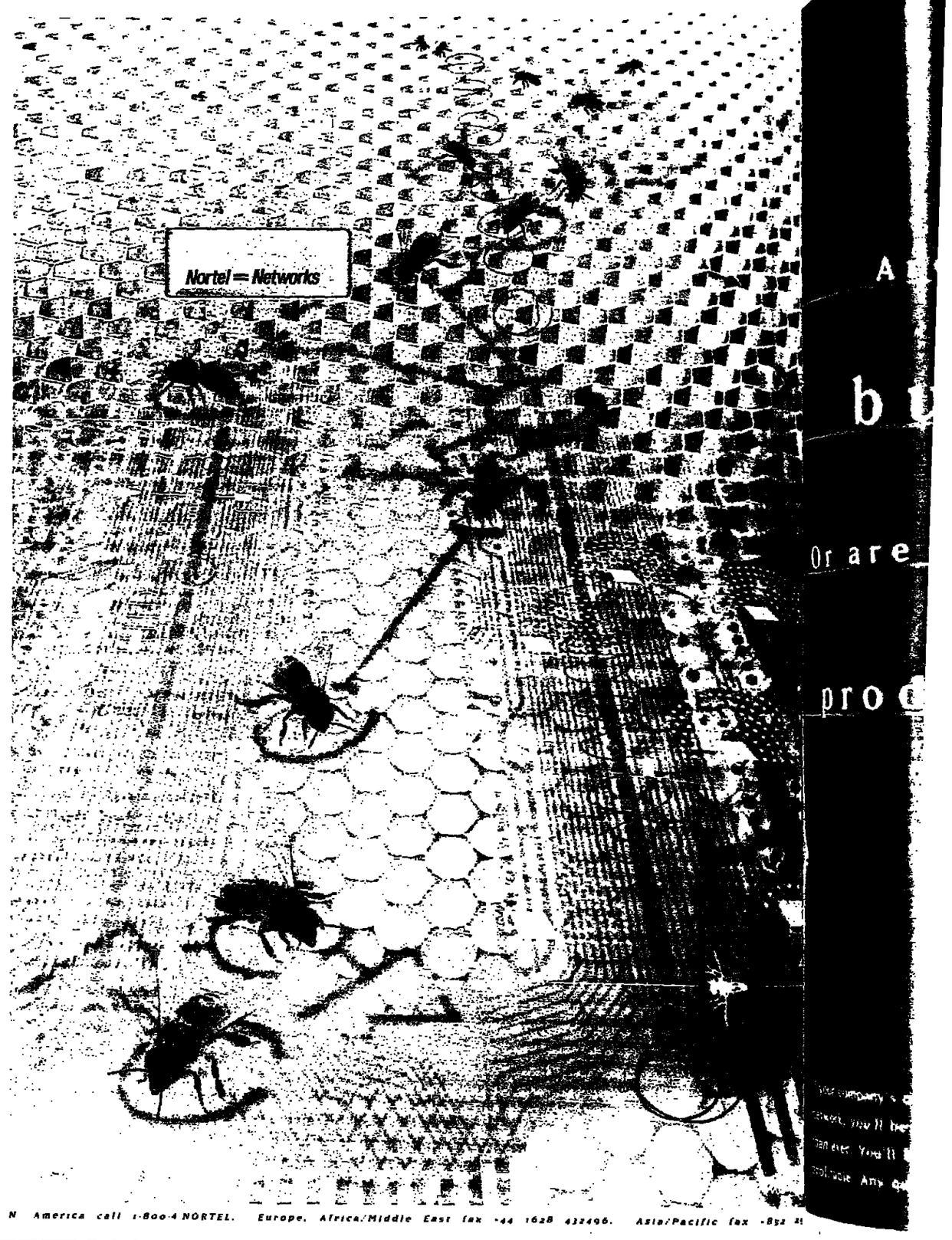
"Come on, Tommy, down one," Seligman urged. But Halton was not convinced. He led a low heart, and West did his best by winning with the nine and leading a club, giving a ruff and sluff. South ruffed in dummy, led to the heart king and played his last trump. West threw a spade, and a finesse of the jack gave South his contract.

NORTH
♠ A K J 7 2
♡ 5 4
◇ 7
♣ —

WEST
♠ Q 9 8 3
♡ Q 10 9
◇ —
♣ Q

EAST
♠ 10 4
♡ —
◇ —
♣ A J 9 8 7 6

SOUTH
♠ 6 5
♡ K J 8 6 3
◇ 6
♣ —



In 1997, the IHT will publish a series of Sponsored Sections in the Asia edition on:

Fast Track '97: Asia Business Outlook

The *"Fast Track"* series has its finger on the pulse of the Asia-Pacific region for the past two years, triggering acclaim from readers and advertisers who feel it's one of the best of the International Herald Tribune's special section projects in Asia.

Each section will include a variety of articles on one central theme:

- **MAY:** The Asian Brand – How well-known are Asian countries and businesses and what value does name-recognition bring?
- **SEPTEMBER:** The Public Sector – Privatization is not a panacea for all countries and all industries. A look at the most dynamic public-sector initiatives and at how they can successfully complement those of the private sector.
- **NOVEMBER:** Diversify or Divest? – To maximize growth, should Asian businesses focus on their core businesses or branch out? A look at recent mergers, alliances, joint ventures, reorganizations and spin-offs.

For more information about advertising in any of these sections, please contact: Andrew Thomas, IHT Singapore. Tel (65) 223 64 78, Fax: (65) 325 08 42 or e-mail: supplements@iht.com.

Herald Tribune
THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

INTERNATIONAL

Mobutu, Though Cornered, Remains Defiant

By Howard W. French
New York Times Service

KINSHASA, Zaire — Instead of being drained by a crisis that would seem to offer him no happy ending, President Mobutu Sese Seko appears to have drawn energy from being thrust back onto the world stage.

Marshal Mobutu has been reduced by age and prostate cancer to a shadow of the vigorous-looking man in the marshal's uniform whose fading official portraits still appear everywhere in this city, and his once-absolute power is crumbling.

Despite a state of emergency and the appointment of a military-led government, Marshal Mobutu's government's writ scarcely extends beyond the limits of this sprawling and rundown capital.

Yet in recent weeks Marshal Mobutu's infrequent appearances have revealed a man in seemingly ever-stronger health who appears to have regained his supreme self-confidence. Invariably clad in his leopard-skin cap, he carries the carved cane that, according to legend, requires the strength of four ordinary men to hoist.

When Marshal Mobutu, 66, returned in late March from France, where he had spent most of the last several months undergoing cancer treatment, he eschewed an official welcome, inadvertently spawning rumors that he had died or suffered a serious health setback.

Instead of coming into the country with the fanfare that accompanied his last appearance, on this trip he turned away his prime minister of the moment and slipped unseen and unphotographed into an official residence on the edge of town.

A week later, forced to dispel the rumors of his demise, Marshal Mobutu appeared at a news conference before scores of foreign journalists.

Beginning his speech with the slow recitation, "My name is Mobutu," he projected the image of an amnesiac reminding himself of his forgotten identity rather than a leader reassuring his followers.

In naming a military government under emergency rule in clear violation of the constitution, Marshal Mobutu has revisited the earliest days of his three decades in power. Now, as it did in 1965, all power flows directly from Marshal Mobutu, whose chosen symbols are the leopard and the eagle, the one for its predatory cunning and the other for its ability to hover serenely above mortals below.

Moreover, just as it was in the early days of his rule, Marshal Mobutu's country is in the grip of a rebellion that has severely tested the ability of the government in Kinshasa to hold sway over its distant provinces.

There is little doubt that this time the outcome will be radically different; rather than subduing rebels with the generous help of foreign friends, Marshal Mobutu seems destined to go down to defeat, succumb to disease, or be forced into exile. But that has not stopped him from affecting some of his famous old arrogance and blithely cursing his fate.

On Saturday, when the rebel leader Laurent Kabila gave the president an ultimatum, insisting that he negotiate his resignation, Marshal Mobutu responded, "If he asks me politely." Marshal Mobutu added, "I cannot refuse to talk to a compatriot, but for him to be in Goma and say 'I give him three days,' it's not my style or nature."

Moments later, he added: "This kind of joke will backfire. I am head of state. My country is Zaire and I don't know of anyone who has proposed my exile."

For some foreign diplomats, Marshal Mobutu's brave talk was nothing more than posturing in advance of a new round of negotiations in South Africa aimed at easing him out of power and avoiding what could be a devastating battle for control of Kinshasa.

Already, the rebels control more than half of the national territory and have seized nearly all of Zaire's immense mineral wealth. In coming days, the rebels are expected to begin sweeping into Bandundu Province, just east of the capital, which is one of the last two sources of food for Kinshasa's 4.5 million residents.

"You look at the situation here and wonder what cards the man has left to play," said one Western diplomat, who likened Marshal Mobutu's present position to that of the Haitian dictator, General Raoul Cedras, just before his negotiated flight from his homeland into exile in September 1994.

"I remember Cedras saying that his people would defend the country to the end, just a few days before he left," the diplomat said. "That's the nature of the game."

But many who know Marshal Mobutu well suspect that in his heart of hearts, this man, whose rule has lasted longer than the Berlin Wall, is not at all convinced that his cause is lost.

On the positive side, these people say that Marshal Mobutu can cite the failure, so far, of the civilian opposition to wrest Kinshasa from government control, and problems Mr. Kabila has encountered in the last few days with opposition politicians who have strong followings in areas his troops have recently conquered.

For many, however, even among Marshal Mobutu's most faithful associates, what this country's seven-month rebellion has proved is that the president, more than anything else, has lost the keen judgment that long made him the master of the complex geopolitical games of Central Africa.

"People will try to ridicule the president while his power seems to be in tatters," said one senior associate of Marshal Mobutu. "But if there is one person who still believes in the myth of Mobutu, it is Mobutu himself. And what is most dangerous here is that he could easily delude himself that he can prevail."

Abdelhak Senna/Agence France-Presse
Mr. Kabila in Lubumbashi on Wednesday before leaving for South Africa.

Kabila Shows Up for Talks

But Rebel Leader Vows to Take Kinshasa

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

CAPE TOWN — The Zairian rebel leader, Laurent Kabila, arrived Wednesday in South Africa for talks aimed at easing his country's political crisis.

Mr. Kabila was to meet with the UN special envoy, Mohammed Sahnoun, and President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, who were believed to be trying to broker a cease-fire.

It was unclear whether he also would talk directly with Zairian government representatives.

Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, urged all countries Wednesday to pressure Mr. Kabila to meet with Zaire's president, Mobutu Sese Seko, to work out the logistics of a transition for a "major political change" in Zaire and thus pave the way for free elections.

"If we do not manage the change in Zaire the way we ought to, with a concerted and sustained effort of the international community and all parties, we may risk losing control of it," Mr. Annan said in Germany.

"Once this century Zaire went through a chaotic history. We do not want to repeat that."

Mr. Kabila, speaking in Lubumbashi before his departure from Zaire, said he did not expect to meet with Marshal Mobutu.

"It is not important for me, who is he?" Mr. Kabila said.

Marshal Mobutu, under increasing domestic and international pressure to step down after nearly 32 years in power, has said he is willing to meet with Mr. Kabila, who last week called for the ailing dictator to resign or go into exile.

Asked his next objective, Mr. Kabila replied, "Kinshasa, and everybody knows it."

He said he would be in the Zairian capital "in three weeks' time, and I am very serious."

Switzerland, meanwhile, said Wednesday that former Zairian Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo, who is wanted in Kinshasa, had entered the country but could not say whether he was still there.

A Foreign ministry spokeswoman said Mr. Kengo, who had a valid Swiss visa, had arrived in Switzerland "in the last couple of days."

Earlier Wednesday, Belgium said it had recently issued a new six-month visa to the former prime minister, but a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Brussels said Mr. Kengo's current whereabouts were not known.

Zaire's information minister, Kin-Kiey Mulumba, said Tuesday his country was issuing an international arrest warrant for Mr. Kengo after Zaire's new government team had found the national treasury empty.

Mr. Kengo was voted out of office three weeks ago. *(AP, Reuters)*

■ Rebels Sign $1 Billion Accord

Zaire's rebel alliance paused Wednesday in its war to topple Marshal Mobutu to sign a $1 billion deal to exploit the fabled mineral wealth of Shaba Province, Reuters reported from Lubumbashi, the provincial capital.

The goal of the accord is to relaunch the broken-down mines of Shaba, formerly known as Katanga, which once worked the world's richest deposits of copper, cobalt and zinc but slumped into decrepitude under Marshal Mobutu's government.

The agreement with America Mineral Fields Inc., the biggest to date by the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of the Congo, was signed in Lubumbashi.

"Everybody is going to profit from these agreements," Mr. Kabila's finance chief, Mwana Nanga Mawanpanga, said.

"Above all, investment must profit the people of this country and especially those in the region where resources are developed."

Initial injections of cash would also help pay for the war to topple Marshal Mobutu, "which is our No. 1 priority," he added.

Mr. Kabila's forces now control about half of Zaire.

America Mineral Fields' chief, Jean-Raymond Boulle, said he supported the rebel cause and had full confidence that what his company regards as the de facto government of rebel-held territories would become the new government of Zaire.

The deal involves deposits and mines under the control of Zaire's state-owned Gecamines, which will be exploited and modernized by America Mineral Fields as a joint venture, with the American company controlling 51 percent and Mr. Kabila's alliance holding a minority blocking share of 49 percent.

Three separate accords cover the exploitation of copper-cobalt tailings at Kolwezi, the rehabilitation of mines at Kipushi, near the Zambian border, and creation of what Mr. Boulle called the world's largest zinc smelter at Kipushi, with a capacity of 200,000 metric tons a year.

The company also planned to build an acid plant with an annual output of 400,000 tons to replace the costly Gecamines practice of importing acid to the middle of Africa for the refining process.

Gunmen Torch a Bar In Portugal, Killing 12

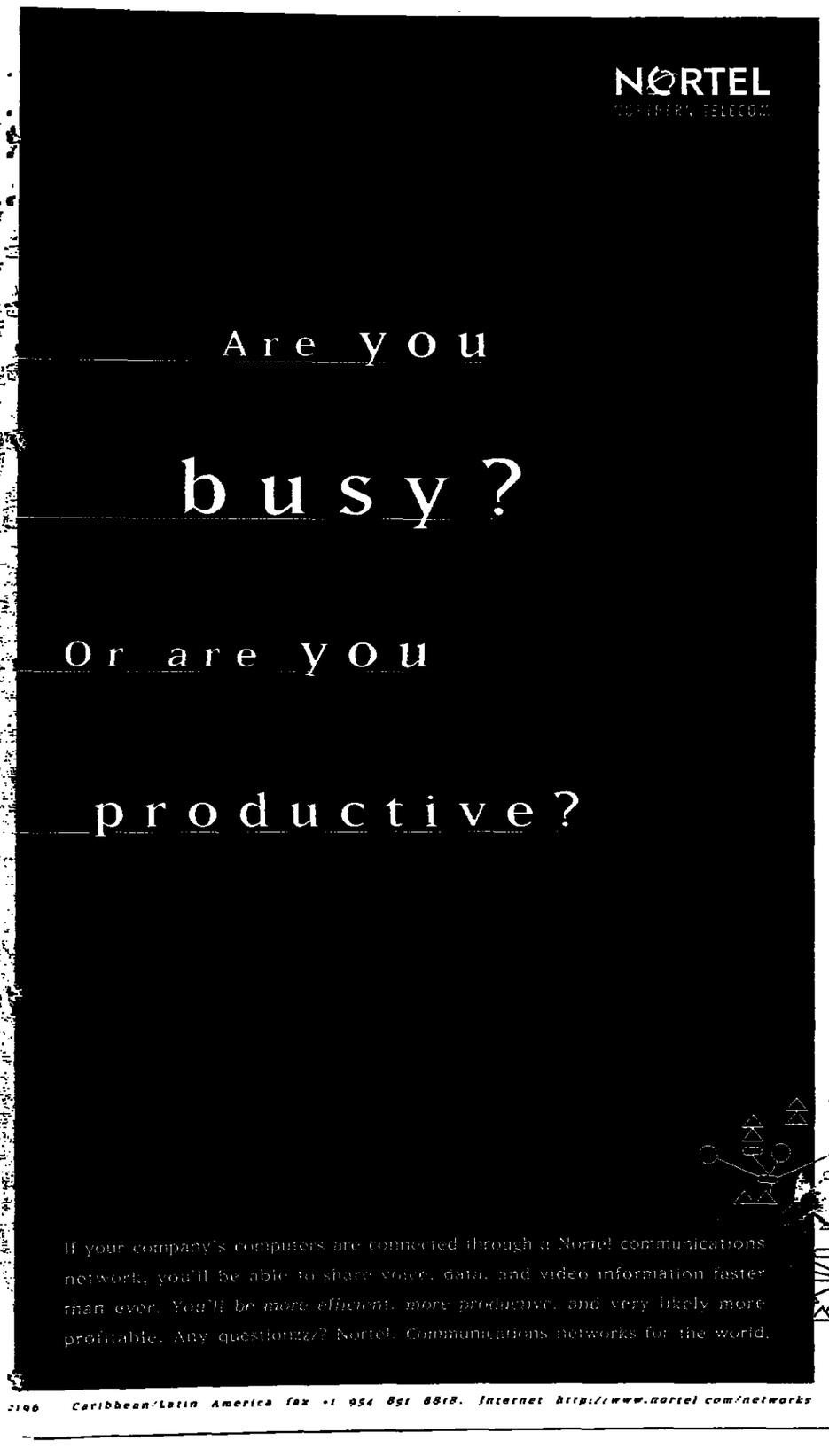
The Associated Press

LISBON — Three masked gunmen burst into a topless bar Wednesday in northern Portugal and set it ablaze with gasoline, killing 12 people and injuring 14 others.

Most of the bodies were found by a locked fire door, the local fire department said.

The police were trying to determine a motive for the attack, which left the Mea Culpa bar and discotheque in Amarante a charred wreck.

Sayyid Azim/The Associated Press
Hutu refugee children waiting Wednesday in a UN truck at the town of Goma, Zaire, before being repatriated to Rwanda. They were among 1,500 refugees sent back during the day by the UN refugee agency.



E-Funds
International Funds via E-mail.
A new service for IHT readers.

What is E-Funds?
E-Funds is a service that allows you to receive regular updates on your international fund groups that interest you. These updates are delivered automatically to your e-mail box daily.

How do I subscribe?
To add a fund group, send an e-mail message to "e-funds@iht.com" — in the body of the message, type SUBSCRIBE followed by the fund code. For example, to subscribe to the Global Asset Management fund, you would type SUBSCRIBE 1776 (The fund codes appear next to the funds listed in the International Funds page of the IHT). Within 5 minutes, your subscription will be registered and you will begin to receive daily updates on the fund.

How many funds may I subscribe to?
You may subscribe to as many funds as you like, but you must send an individual SUBSCRIBE message for each fund. Receive a full list of funds codes on the IHT International Funds page, or by sending an e-mail message to "e-funds@iht.com" with the command INDEX on the first line of text in the body of the message.

What must I pay?
There is no cost for subscribing to E-Funds. This is a reader service feature for IHT readers.

Brought to you in collaboration with NOKIA, the official E-Funds sponsor.

Follow your funds via the International Herald Tribune.

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

HEALTH/SCIENCE

Were Some Early Americans Caucasoid?

By Boyce Rensberger
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Skeletons unearthed in several Western states and as far east as Minnesota are challenging the traditional view that the earliest Americans all resembled today's Asians. The skeletons' skulls bear features similar to those of Europeans, suggesting that Caucasoid people were among the earliest humans to migrate into the New World more than 9,000 years ago.

Anthropologists have known of such bones for years, but did not fully appreciate their significance until reappraising them over the last few months.

The new analyses were prompted by the discovery last summer of the newest addition to the body of evidence — the skeleton of a man who died about 9,300 years ago near what is now Kennewick, Washington. One of the most complete ancient skeletons found in the United States, the bones were immediately recognized as Caucasoid, leading those who first examined them to think they were the remains of a European settler.

"It's an exciting time, and I think we're going to see some real changes in the story about the peopling of North America," said Dennis Stanford, an authority on early human history in North America at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. "I think we're going to see the whole complexion of North American prehistory change real fast."

D. Gentry Steele, an anthropologist at Texas A&M University, speculates that people of both races migrated into North America in separate waves, possibly thousands of years apart. Where they met, he suspects, they "made love, not war," and thus both populations may be ancestral to some or all of today's Native Americans.

Until now, most anthropologists thought that the earliest humans to inhabit the Americas all resembled today's Asiatic peoples, popularly called Mongoloids. Prehistoric Americans are thought to have migrated from Siberia into Alaska and then spread southward, probably during an ice age when sea levels were hundreds of feet lower than now, exposing a "land bridge."

Now many anthropologists maintain that early colonization of the Americas was a more complex process, involving not only Mongoloids but Caucasoids as well. Some Native American peoples today resemble the people of Asia and some are more European. Much of this mixture is the product of intermarriage in recent centuries, but some may date back thousands of years.

The reappraisal of prehistoric Americans also is providing an explanation for the Ainu people of Japan. A distinctly European-looking population with light skin, wavy hair and heavy beards, the Ainu were living on islands off Asia thousands of years ago, when Mongoloid people from the mainland crossed the water to found the modern Japanese nation.

TODAY'S Ainu — historically a despised minority group, many of whom now live on reservations — have long puzzled anthropologists because they lived so far from any other known region of Caucasoid habitation and because people of more typical Asiatic physical form filled a large intervening territory.

Anthropologists now suspect — but cannot prove — that the presence of European-type people in Japan and in North America in prehistoric times indicates that the race spread far from its presumed homeland in western Asia much earlier than had been thought.

Perhaps the most intensively examined of the skeletons is that of a man who died about 9,400 years ago and was laid to rest in Spirit Cave, Nevada. His remains were discovered in 1940 but their age was not determined until last year. Dr. Owsley recently examined the remains in great detail and, in his report to the Nevada State Museum, where the skeleton is housed, said, "It does have a 'European' or 'archaic Caucasoid' look because morphometrically it is most similar to the Ainu from Japan and a medieval period Norse population."

Still, Dr. Owsley cautioned, this does not mean the man's ancestors were from Europe.

Some anthropologists reject the Caucasoid label for the prehistoric skeletons. Donald K. Grayson of the University of Washington, for example, says that using the word raises "a red flag, suggesting that whites were here earlier and Indians were here later." That, he contends, implies that the ancient peoples who reached the New World were like today's Europeans or American whites.

In fact, as some other anthropologists note, the "apparently Caucasoid" skeletons may represent a physical type that was not ancestral to today's Europeans but may have given rise to the Ainu and other groups, such as the Polynesians, who do not resemble modern Asians but do have a somewhat Caucasoid cast.

African Predators Catching TB From Prey

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.
New York Times Service

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, South Africa — The age-old story of the hunter and the hunted — the lion and the buffalo — seems so predictable. But in a twist with overtones of poetic justice, the latest chapter in the great struggle of nature is being rewritten here: the prey are bringing down the predators by infecting them with tuberculosis.

The bovine version of the disease, spreading from domestic cattle to wild buffalo, has become a serious threat in Kruger National Park, the jewel of South Africa's park system. In the last two years, it has spread to lions, cheetahs, kudu and baboons.

"It's quite a problem," said Dr. Dewald F. Keet, the park's senior veterinarian. "Virtually half of the buffalo herds in the park are considered infected. Every time we do a post-mortem now, one of the first things we look for is tuberculosis."

Tuberculosis has been found in the past in other parks, from Queen Elizabeth Park in Uganda to Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada. But because Kruger is one of the world's most famous and undoubtedly the continent's best-organized, it breeds and exports many species around Africa, from elephants to hippopotamuses, zebras and white and black rhinoceroses. If the tuberculosis spreads to those species, Kruger could be cut off from that income, and efforts to rebuild the continent's animal populations could suffer.

Kruger also has many desperately poor cattle-raising people on its western border. As buffalo nuzzle their domestic sweethearts through the fence, they can pass on the infection and, since the cows' owners drink unpasteurized milk, it could reach humans.

The park is proposing a far-reaching eradication plan that would involve killing 10,000 buffaloes. Park officials feel they have no choice.

"We'll have to be very careful in how we market the strategy," said Bruce Bryden, the park's head ranger. "These measures may not go over very well with the public. It's like an ostrich, though. You can put your head in the sand and take it out later, but the problem won't have gone away."

Tuberculosis is an age-old killer, and forms of the mycobacterium can strike any mammal or bird on Earth. South Africa has the highest known human tuberculosis infection rate in the world, according to the World Health Organization. About 350 of every 100,000 people are infected, and a campaign is under way here to eradicate the disease.

Doctors have long known how the disease is transmitted and cured in humans. Some research has been done on its effects in dairy herds and in zoos. But in the wild, where dozens of species live together and eat each other, it remains largely a mystery.

AND even when it is suspected, one cannot easily get chest X-rays from a rhinoceros or sputum samples from a leopard. A skin test exists for buffaloes, and kudu betray tuberculosis infection by facial swelling, but the only way to diagnose the disease in other animals is through autopsy.

Bovine tuberculosis is European in origin, and for decades, Dr. Keet said, veterinarians were taught that it simply would not survive in Africa's bright sunshine and arid climate. Moreover, since it does not kill whole herds as anthrax and rinderpest do, it was assumed that predators would suppress any chance outbreak — in Africa, an animal that weakens is soon pulled down and devoured.

In fact, that may be what happened for three decades. The disease is believed to have first entered the park in 1959 or 1960. A cattle ranch near Crocodile Bridge, at the park's southeastern corner, had an outbreak of bovine tuberculosis so virulent that its entire herd of mixed European and Asian stock had to be destroyed. In those days the park was unfenced. "Cattle and buffalo mixed and no one thought anything of it," Dr. Keet said.

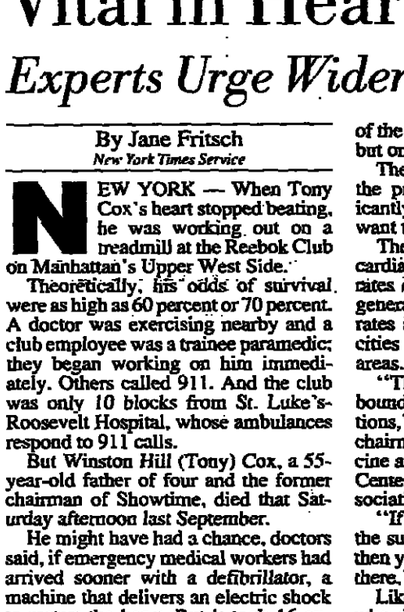
Bovine tuberculosis has never been eradicated when it is shared between a domestic species and a wild one; domestic cattle have shared it with badgers in England, opossums in New Zealand and feral pigs and Asian buffaloes in Australia.

TOMORROW: LEISURE

Do-It-Yourself Resuscitators

When a person's heart stops, the use of new portable automated external defibrillators may increase the victim's chances of survival. The machines can administer an electric shock before an ambulance arrives — saving valuable time.

How it Works



Source: Survivalink Corporation

Cristina Rivero/NYT

Use of Defibrillators Vital in Heart Attacks

Experts Urge Wider Availability

By Jane Fritsch
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — When Tony Cox's heart stopped beating, he was working out on a treadmill at the Reebok Club on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

Theoretically, his odds of survival were as high as 60 percent or 70 percent. A doctor was exercising nearby and a club employee was a trainee paramedic; they began working on him immediately. Others called 911. And the club was only 10 blocks from St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, whose ambulances respond to 911 calls.

But Winston Hill (Tony) Cox, a 55-year-old father of four and the former chairman of Showtime, died that Saturday afternoon last September.

He might have had a chance, doctors said, if emergency medical workers had arrived sooner with a defibrillator, a machine that delivers an electric shock to restart the heart. But it took 16 excruciating minutes for the ambulance to arrive that day, far more than the five- or six-minute window of hope.

In New York City, in fact, the likelihood of being revived after cardiac arrest is only about 1 percent. The congealed traffic in New York — and in most American cities — and the vast distances ambulances must travel in rural areas mean that emergency workers simply cannot reach most cardiac arrest victims in time.

Cardiologists estimate that a half or more of the 350,000 people who die of cardiac arrest in the United States each year could have been saved.

Cardiologists now argue that it is time to give up on emergency medical squads as the chief means of reviving heart patients. In the last year, the American Heart Association has begun to push for much wider availability of defibrillators. The devices should be placed just about everywhere, the association contends — in factories, health clubs, apartment buildings, and even in private homes, and available for use by a variety of nonmedical people, like security guards and doormen. Within a decade, the association hopes, the devices should become as common as fire extinguishers.

While the heart association's proposal may seem simple, state laws and federal regulations are in the way.

The Food and Drug Administration, which regulates the machines, has not considered whether they are safe and effective for use by the general public.

State emergency medical directors have joined together to oppose the widespread use of defibrillators, saying that the matter needs more study.

Still, the heart specialists plan to fight aggressively for their plan, kicking it off at a meeting this week in Washington.

Not too long ago, defibrillators were so complicated that the operators had to be specially trained to read the screens and interpret the heart waves. But the heart association says a new generation of automatic, easy-to-use machines has been developed that can be operated by almost anyone. The new lightweight machines analyze heart rhythms, decide whether a shock is needed, and give simple voice instructions. The machines will not shock a person who does not need it, the makers say.

What has made the machines practical, the association says, are five-year lithium batteries that eliminate the need for regular maintenance. The Food and Drug Administration approved several of the new, lightweight models last fall, but only for prescription use.

The average cost is about $3,000, but the price is expected to drop significantly if the market is opened to all who want to buy them.

The collection of data on deaths from cardiac arrest is haphazard, making the rates difficult to compare. But experts generally agree that dismal survival rates apply to all but a few American cities and most suburban and rural areas.

"This is an area that has been hidebound by rules and laws and regulations," said Dr. Myron L. Weisfeldt, the chairman of the Department of Medicine at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center and the head of the heart association's task force on defibrillators.

"If the defibrillators aren't there, and the survival rate is less than 5 percent, then you'd better find a way to get them there," Dr. Weisfeldt said.

Like Mr. Cox, about half of all those who die of heart disease die suddenly and unexpectedly, without ever having shown any symptoms, the heart association says. Many are unaware that they have clogged arteries or other types of heart disease.

In Mr. Cox's case, an autopsy showed that three coronary arteries were blocked, but there was no sign of the muscle damage that would have been present if he had had a heart attack.

If Mr. Cox's heart had been restarted, he might have been a candidate for cardiac bypass surgery, Dr. Nicholas J. Fortuin, a professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins, said. That procedure restores blood flow to the heart and can add decades to a life. But Mr. Cox might have died even with early defibrillation, Dr. Fortuin said.

Cardiac arrest does not necessarily mean a heart attack occurred.

Arterial blockages alone can cause the heart's electrical impulses to become disorganized and incapable of coordinating the contractions that keep the heart beating normally.

THE disorganized electrical activity, called ventricular fibrillation, can last for about five minutes. During that time, a shock from a defibrillator can reorganize the electrical impulses so that the heart resumes normal beating.

But with each passing minute, the likelihood of successful defibrillation drops significantly. Expertly done cardiopulmonary resuscitation can buy the victim a little more time, but it is useless unless a defibrillator arrives quickly, before all electrical activity in the heart has ceased.

It is a common notion suggested by television shows and movies that defibrillation is not done until a flat line appears on a heart monitor, but that is not so. A flat line indicates that there is no electrical activity in the heart at all, and therefore no electrical impulses to be reorganized by a shock from a defibrillator.

Dr. John La Pook, a Manhattan internist and friend of Mr. Cox, was so disturbed by his friend's unexpected death that he has since purchased a defibrillator and keeps it at his apartment on Central Park West.

Sometimes, he even takes his defibrillator to his regular basketball game in Brooklyn, where he plays with friends with ages ranging from the 30s into the 50s. At first they laughed at him, Dr. La Pook said, but they seem to have come to appreciate having the thing around.

A two-month trial subscription.

Save up to 60%

By maintaining a far-flung network of news-gathering resources, the World's Daily Newspaper brings you unrivalled coverage of world politics, business and economics, as well as science, technology, travel, fashion, the arts and sport — all from an international perspective.

Take advantage of this limited opportunity to try the International Herald Tribune with a low cost, 2-month trial subscription and enjoy delivery to your home or office every morning.

COUNTRY/CURRENCY		2 MONTHS NEWSSTAND PRICE	2 MONTHS OFFER PRICE	DISCOUNT OFF COVER PRICE
AUSTRIA	ATS	1,456	650	55%
BELGIUM	BEF	3,380	1,350	60%
DENMARK	DKK	780	360	54%
FINLAND	FIM	624	310	50%
FRANCE	FF	520	210	60%
GERMANY*	DEM	182	72	60%
GREAT BRITAIN	£	47	22	53%
GREECE	DR	18,200	9,100	50%
IRELAND	IRE	52	26	50%
ITALY	ITL	145,600	58,000	60%
LUXEMBOURG	LFR	3,3800	1,350	60%
NETHERLANDS	NLG	195	78	60%
NORWAY	NOK	832	390	53%
PORTUGAL	ESC	11,960	5,000	58%
SPAIN	PTAS	11,700	5,000	57%
SWEDEN	SEK	832	350	58%
SWITZERLAND	CHF	166	66	60%
ELSEWHERE	$	—	50	—

* For information concerning hand delivery in major German cities call toll free (IHT Germany or 0130-84 85 85 or fax (069) 9712 6311

Yes, I would like to start receiving the International Herald Tribune. 17-4-97
☐ My check is enclosed (payable to the IHT)
Charge my: ☐ Amex ☐ Diners ☐ VISA ☐ Access ☐ MasterCard ☐ Eurocard
Credit card charges will be made in French Francs at current rates
Card No: _____ Exp. Date: _____
Signature: _____
For business orders, indicate your VAT No: _____ (IHT VAT Number FR74732021126)
Mr/Mrs/Ms Family Name: _____
First Name: _____ Job Title: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City/Code: _____
Country: _____
Home Tel No: _____ Business Tel No: _____
E-Mail Address: _____
I got this copy of the IHT at: ☐ kiosk ☐ hotel ☐ airline ☐ other
☐ I do not wish to receive information from other carefully screened companies
Mail or fax to: International Herald Tribune
181 Ave. C. de Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly Cedex, France. Fax: +33 1 41 43 92 10
OR CALL +33 1 41 43 93 61
In Asia: +852 29 22 11 88. In the US (toll-free): 1-800-882-2884
E-Mail No: subs@iht.com
Offer valid for new subscribers only. HA3M

New Hips, New Activity

By Jane E. Brody
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Charlie Hamm, the 59-year-old president and chief executive of the Independence Savings Bank in Brooklyn, is not the retiring type. He is an irrepressible leader, a champion of his borough and the people who live there.

He has also been a lifelong squash and tennis player, but his hips gradually became so stiff and painful he could hardly walk. So in January, Mr. Hamm joined about 125,000 Americans who will undergo hip replacement surgery this year. With two new titanium joints and daily physical therapy, he will soon be ready to engage in all kinds of activities that he has been watching from the sidelines for years.

The procedure was once limited almost entirely to people over 60, who would be likely to subject their new joint to less stress for fewer years than younger people. But improved techniques have removed the age barriers, and growing numbers of people in their 30s, 40s and 50s are rediscovering an active life after having crippled joints replaced with artificial ones. About one-third of hip replacements are now done on adults younger than 65.

Even 20 years after hip replacement surgery, in which old methods were used in older people, 95 percent of the patients rated the results as better or much better than their condition before surgery, according to a study of 112 patients who were operated on at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, in 1968 and 1969.

And in a study of 180 patients who got new hips at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York in 1988, more than 90 percent said they were satisfied with the pain relief, improved ability to walk and psychological benefits and would have the surgery again if necessary.

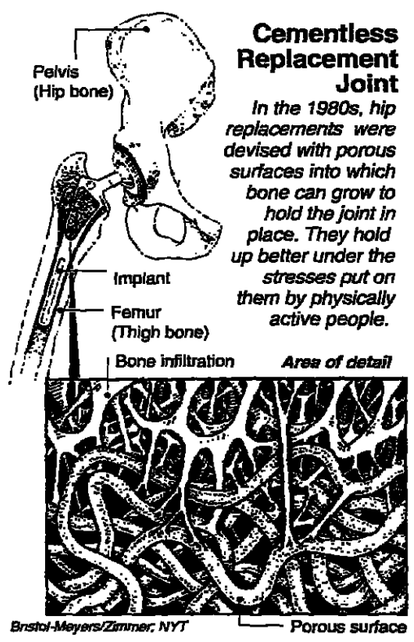
Although orthopedic surgeons who specialize in hip replacement do not encourage their postoperative patients to pursue stressful activities like football, basketball, downhill skiing, ice skating or singles tennis, some do return to vigorous sports, and a vast majority are able to be physically active, usually for the first time in many years. Robert Doherty, then of Briarcliff Manor, New York, and an agent for New York Life Insurance Co., was thrilled to find that after hip replacement surgery at the age of 57 and postoperative physical therapy, he was able to go back to playing golf and tennis. "With the latest techniques doctors are using today, it is amazing what can be accomplished," he said.

Bo Jackson, whose professional football career was abruptly ended by a routine tackle that severely damaged his hip, returned after hip replacement surgery to his first sport: baseball. In his first at-bat as a member of the Chicago White Sox, he hit a home run and sent the spirits of hundreds of thousands of hip replacement patients soaring.

But experts fear that Mr. Jackson has also sent the wrong message to fellow patients because the demands of baseball will almost certainly shorten the life span of his new hip.

ARTHRITIS — rheumatoid in most younger people and osteoarthritis in those over 60 — is the most common reason for needing a hip replaced. Other candidates, also usually young, are athletes and accident victims with severe injuries to a hip joint.

For those with arthritis, the surgery is usually recommended when the pain can no longer be managed by medication and the person's ability to meet the demands of life has become seriously impaired.



Cementless Replacement Joint

In the 1980s, hip replacements were devised with porous surfaces into which bone can grow to hold the joint in place. They hold up better under the stresses put on them by physically active people.

Bristol-Meyers/Zimmer; NYT

Total hip replacement results in an almost immediate transformation. It relieves pain, restores virtually all motion and sharply improves the person's quality of life. Even among the elderly, about 90 percent are able to get along without assistance.

Although the replacements last, on average, 20 to 30 years, but they can last indefinitely.

The hip is a ball-in-socket joint, with the ball being the upper end of the femur (thigh bone) and the socket an indentation in the pelvis. Lining the end of the bone and the socket is articular cartilage, which acts as a cushion, keeping the bones from rubbing together.

In osteoarthritis, with chronic wear and tear, the cartilage gradually deteriorates, resulting in grinding pain and inflammation with each movement of the hip joint. The artificial hip replaces the damaged ball-in-socket joint. It has two main pieces. A nonreactive metal shaft, with a metal or ceramic ball at the top, is fitted into the thigh bone. The other half is a cup-shaped socket of tough plastic, encased in metal, into which the ball of the metal shaft fits.

The original hip replacements relied entirely on cement to hold the artificial joint in place. But through the years, pressure on the new joint often caused the cement to crack and the artificial joint to loosen. The younger the patient and the more vigorous the person's activities, the more quickly the artificial hip was likely to fail.

To get around this problem, surgeons devised a new technique in the 1980s: the cementless joint. Instead of being a smooth, solid piece, the cementless implant has a roughened, porous surface into which bone can grow and hold the new joint in place.

Dr. Jacob D. Rozbruch, former chief of orthopedic surgery at Beth Israel Medical Center North in New York, explained, "A special coating on the implant encourages the surrounding bone to grow into the prosthesis, making it an integral part of the body."

Herald Tribune INTERNATIONAL

BUSINESS/FINANCE

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1997

Yamaichi Plans to Aid Ailing Units

S&P Downgrades 2 Of Top 4 Brokerages

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Yamaichi Securities Co. said Wednesday that it planned to help troubled affiliates as the company considered measures to strengthen its operations before Japan's planned financial industry deregulation.

The announcement came as the U.S. credit-rating agency Standard & Poor's Corp. said it was reviewing with negative implications the long-term debt of Yamaichi Securities, which is one of Japan's top four brokerages, and lowering ratings on two more.

Standard & Poor's said it would "evaluate Yamaichi's weakening financial performance, its position in the industry and the potential impact on the securities company of Japan's 'Big Bang' financial deregulation."

Standard & Poor's also said Wednesday that it had lowered its long- and short-term credit ratings for two more of the top four brokerages, Daiwa Securities Co. and Nikko Securities Co.

"The rating action reflects the prolonged poor performance of Japanese securities firms and the expected negative impact of ongoing deregulation, in particular the liberalization of stock-brokerage commissions," it said, adding it was also switching its outlook for both from stable to negative.

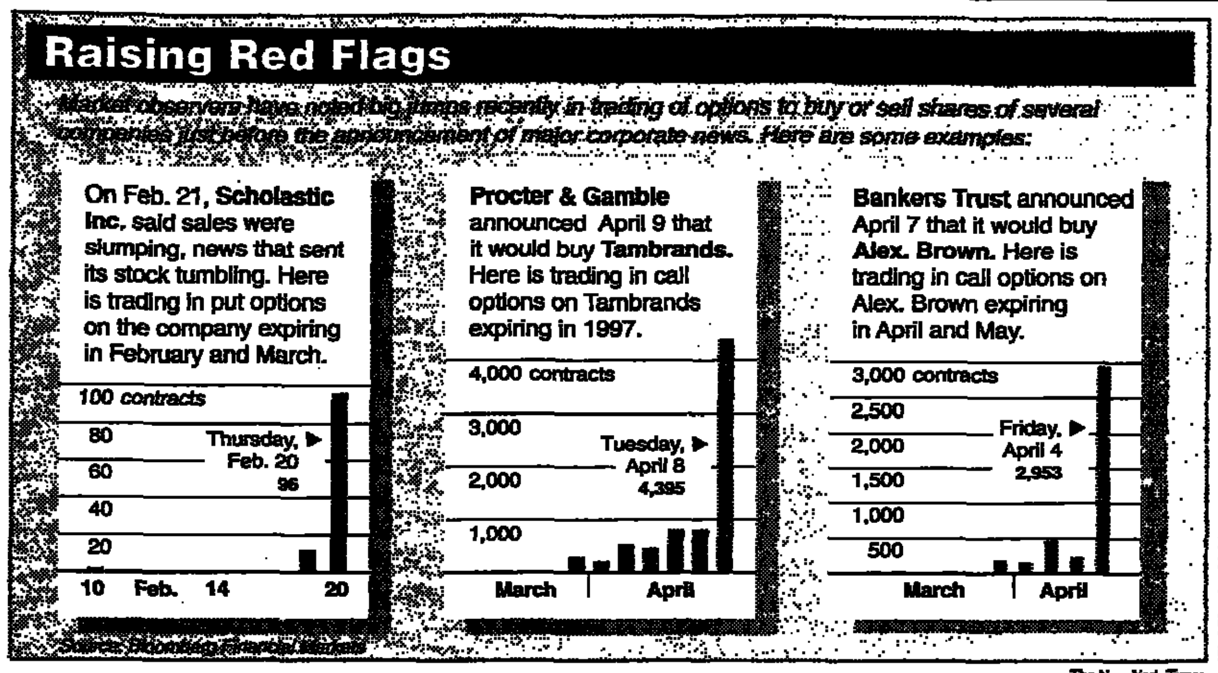
Yamaichi, meanwhile, said that it would also decide on measures to assist the struggling affiliates as soon as possible.

A source at Yamaichi Securities said it would buy about 600 million yen ($4.8 million) in new shares of an affiliated brokerage, Daichu Securities Co., to help prop up the troubled unit. The shares are to be issued through a third-party allotment as early as next week.

"The company is considering helping its affiliates from a number of viewpoints," a spokesman said. He said the company may merge some affiliates or bail them out.

The Yamaichi affiliates are Naigai Securities Co., Naito Securities Co., Daichu Shoken and Ogawa Shoken.

Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi are ranked as the second, third and fourth largest brokerages behind Nomura Securities Co., whose outlook was downgraded from stable to negative last month. *(Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP)*



The New York Times

Insider Trading Makes a Comeback

By Jonathan Fuerbringer
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Insider trading, the crime that made Wall Street and greed synonymous in the 1980s, is back.

The perpetrators are more likely to be corporate employees and their golfing buddies or family members than investment bankers. And the illegal profits are often much smaller.

But the merger mania of the past two years has created huge new opportunities for corporate insiders to profit from privileged information about their companies' merger plans. The six-year bull market has only whetted investors' appetites for easy riches. As a result, the number of suspicious cases attracting regulators' attention is picking up and, in some dimensions, breaking records set a decade ago.

Regulators at the National Association of Securities Dealers, who monitor the vast Nasdaq stock market of more than 5,000 companies, are turning up suspicious trading activity almost daily. Aided by advanced software systems, they are able to spot sudden surges in stock price and volume that precede market-moving announcements, study the trading patterns and turn over the most likely cases of insider trading to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In 1996, regulators referred 121 such cases to the SEC, breaking the record of 115 set in 1986, when Ivan Boesky was the poster boy for insider trading. The pace has accelerated sharply, to 53 cases in this year's first quarter.

"Not only are the number of referrals up, the quality of the referrals has also improved," said Barry Goldsmith, a senior regulator. That means, he said, that the cases were better researched and more likely to lead to charges.

The New York Stock Exchange is also experiencing an surge in dubious trading activity. It sent 48 potential criminal cases to the SEC last year, well above the average of about 28 from the previous three years, though shy of the 57 referrals it made in 1989.

On Tuesday, acting on a tip of suspicious trading volume in options from the Pacific Stock Exchange in San Francisco, the agency accused two people of insider trading.

The two, a trader named Ong Conggin Bobby and an unknown person operating in Zurich, bought options Friday in the stock of APL Ltd., a cargo-shipping line, ahead of the Sunday announcement that APL was being taken over by Neptune Orient Lines Ltd. The 1,690 options that the individuals acquired accounted for 74 percent of the trading volume in those securities Friday.

The SEC got a temporary restraining order to freeze the assets of both persons. Mr. Ong, according to the SEC, had already ordered the sale of some of his options to secure his profit of almost $574,000 if he had been able to sell all the options. Had the unknown purchaser in Zurich been able to cash out, he or she was looking at a total profit of almost $400,000 based on Tuesday's prices.

Regulators are cracking down on insider trading not just to punish wrongdoers. They are also determined to create a level playing field, especially for small investors.

For that reason, they are especially nervous about a U.S. Supreme Court review of a challenge to their legal authority. The case, which was being heard Wednesday, involves a ruling last year by a federal appeals court that rejected the SEC's expansion of the concept of insider trading to include people who do not directly work for or have a legal relationship with the company whose stock is bought or sold.

The appellate court's ruling overturned the conviction of James H. O'Hagan, a Minneapolis lawyer, who knew that his law firm was representing Grand Metropolitan PLC in its 1988 takeover offer for Pillsbury Co. and bought options in Pillsbury stock, eventually making $4.3 million.

The Supreme Court is expected to issue a ruling before its current session ends in July. If it upholds the lower court, the door to a type of insider trading that law-enforcement officials have spent a decade trying to stop — the kind by people who know of a secret takeover attempt but don't work for the target company — would be thrown wide open.

CompuServe Unit Chief Is Indicted in Germany

At Issue: Pornography in Cyberspace

By Edmund L. Andrews
New York Times Service

FRANKFURT — German prosecutors indicted the head of CompuServe Corp.'s on-line computer service Wednesday on charges of trafficking in pornography, invoking a much-debated law to hold the company responsible for material that its customers could obtain from sites on the Internet.

The indictment marked a turning point in the debate over controlling pornography on the Internet, because it appeared to be the first time that authorities in any Western country had tried to prosecute a commercial on-line service for material that it had no part in producing.

Prosecutors in Munich charged that Felix Somm, general manager of CompuServe Deutschland, had violated anti-pornography laws by failing to block its customers from using the CompuServe network to reach independent computers on the Internet that offer child pornography. They also charged that CompuServe had failed to block access to Internet sites offering Nazi and neo-Nazi material, which is also prohibited in Germany.

The maximum penalty for violating child-pornography laws is five years in prison, although legal specialists said Mr. Somm would almost certainly not receive a judgment that harsh.

[Jerry Roest, European general manager for CompuServe, said, "We will vigorously defend these allegations," Bloomberg News reported.]

CompuServe executives said they thought as recently as January that they would not be prosecuted, based on their discussions with investigators.

Nevertheless, the company had already hired German specialists in computer law to help argue its case.

People who have tracked global police activities involving the Internet said the indictment, which followed an investigation that lasted more than one year, was unprecedented.

"We think this is the first prosecution of an on-line service for information provided over the Internet," said Marc Rotenberg, head of the Electronic Privacy and Information Center, a nonprofit civil-rights advocacy group based in Washington.

Specialists said the ultimate ramifications of the indictment were unclear, because Germany's Parliament was widely expected to pass a law governing multimedia services that would explicitly free commercial services such as CompuServe from liability for material obtained over the Internet.

But pornography in cyberspace has become an increasingly hot political issue in Europe, in part because of widespread outrage over revelations about a murderous child-pornography ring discovered last year in Belgium and several other lurid cases. Some of the people arrested in these cases have used the Internet for storing and shipping material.

CompuServe first ran afoul of German authorities in 1995. Based on a tough demand to block access to Internet sites offering pornography, CompuServe Deutschland took what was then the unprecedented step of blocking access to more than 200 sites.

The action ignited a backlash among many customers and civil-rights activists because some of the prohibited sites dealt with issues such as breast cancer and acquired immune deficiency syndrome and had nothing to do with pornography.

Since then, however, the problem has been that new Internet sites have sprung up to replace the old ones — a process that computer experts say is impossible to stop, regardless of how vigilantly a service tries to monitor cyberspace.

Mr. Somm told German officials last year that the on-line company might shift its offices and operations from Germany to France if the service continued to be threatened with indictments. CompuServe has about 300,000 customers in Germany and more than 4 million customers worldwide.

Ulrich Sieber, a professor of law specializing in computer and information issues at the University of Wuerzburg, predicted that the indictment would not hold up and might not even be accepted by a German court.

Ingo Reese, a spokesman for AOL, the European service owned jointed by America Online Inc. and the German media company Bertelsmann AG, said his company was not worried about being indicted on similar charges.

Mr. Reese said authorities in Hamburg had investigated AOL, much as Bavarian authorities in Munich had investigated CompuServe, but decided not to prosecute.

Beyond that, Mr. Reese said, all on-line companies were expected to fall under the protection of the proposed new German law that many expect to take effect this year.

INTERNATIONAL MANAGER

Lazard Prepares to Do Without Rohatyn

By Peter Truell
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Felix Rohatyn, a star at Lazard Freres & Co. for nearly 40 years and a 1970s savior of New York City's tangled finances, may really be leaving town this time.

Early last year, Mr. Rohatyn for a time seemed to have his bags packed for Washington to be vice chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, before rumblings from an apparently hostile Republican Congress and a lack of strong support from President Bill Clinton persuaded him to withdraw his candidacy.

So how will Lazard look after its favorite son leaves his position as a managing director to be ambassador to France, presuming that this appointment is not derailed as well? U.S. officials said this week that Mr. Clinton had selected Mr. Rohatyn for the post. If confirmed by the Senate, he would succeed Pamela Harriman, who died Feb. 5.

The departure of Mr. Rohatyn, 68, would clearly be a significant loss for the firm, which specializes in the traditional approach to investment banking, offering advice without many strings attached. His experience, contacts and reputation are invaluable to such a strategy. Unlike many of its competitors, Lazard has not built a huge trading business.

But the Lazard companies — in New York, Paris and London, with 2,000 employees worldwide — have been preparing for Mr. Rohatyn's departure for years, realizing that age or ambition would eventually cause him to leave.

The U.S. firm, for example, is less reliant than it used to be on individual talent. It has doubled in size since the late 1980s and now has 873 employees including 80 managing directors, as the firm's partners are known.

That includes a crop of young bankers such as Kendrick Wilson 3d, Gerald Rosenfeld, Michael Price and Steven Rattner in New York and J. Ira Harris and Mikesell Thomas in Chicago.

The fastest-growing American industries — high technology, health care, media, telecommunications — have embraced Lazard's services, and the firm recently opened a San Francisco office to attract West Coast companies.

Whether Lazard seeks to hire outside talent to help fill the gap left by Mr. Rohatyn will depend on Michel David-Weill, who effectively owns and controls the three firms, managing directors at Lazard said Tuesday. Investment bankers are often tempted by Lazard's reputedly high pay and the greater room it gives for independence and individuality.

This approach does not always work, however. About two years ago, Mr. David-Weill and his partners unsuccessfully courted John Thornton, a partner at Goldman, Sachs & Co. who has helped to build that firm's European and international success. On the other hand, last year, Mr. David-Weill and his partners brought in William Kneisel, a well-known banker, from Morgan Stanley.

Mr. Rohatyn and his firm are clearly wary of jinxing his proposed appointment. "Felix can't talk to anybody," Kate McDonough, a spokeswoman for Lazard Freres in New York, said, "and because of that, the firm isn't saying anything."

The firm has profited hugely from the bull market of the 1990s, and particularly from the boom in company mergers and acquisitions, its specialty. It is privately held and discloses little financial information, but insiders say that 1996 was its most profitable year ever.

Although the Lazard tradition has been to nurture "generalist" investment bankers who can work with various industries, the firm has recently encouraged some specialization, with Ali Wambold helping to build its natural-resources banking business and Kenneth Jacobs playing a similar role with its health-care practice.

Mr. David-Weill is also eager to continue to draw the three Lazard firms closer together. In recent years, he has integrated the New York and London capital-markets businesses.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates

April 16

	$	£	D.M.	F.F.	Lira	D.Fl	B.F.	S.F.	Yen	C$	Peseta
Amsterdam	1.9425	3.152	1.124	0.3340	0.1141*	—	5.449*	1.3323	1.5448*	1.3865	1.3335*
Brussels	35.675	58.085	20.628	6.133	2.0534*	18.3405	—	24.37	0.2881	25.54	24.47*
Frankfurt	1.7355	2.7979	—	0.2974	0.1015*	0.8897	4.8479*	1.1748	1.3729*	1.2356	1.3058*
London (a)	1.6221	—	2.804	9.4378	2,761.71	3.1514	57.8498	2.3844	204.8802	2.2526	234.19
Madrid	145.494	236.838	84.356	25.073	8.557*	75.283	4.0830	99.22	115.457*	104.223	—
Milan	1,698.30	2,756.30	985.00	293.06	—	876.65	47.726	1,159.70	13.482	1,215.35	11.696
New York (b)	—	1.6240a	1.7288	5.812	1,703.00	1.9428	35.45	1.472	125.775	1.3972	145.435
Paris	5.8028	9.414	3.3638	—	0.3414*	2.9918	0.163	3.9572	4.6127*	4.1568	3.988*
Tokyo	126.35	205.39	73.33	21.75	0.744	65.07	3.5452	86.38	—	90.51	0.8676
Toronto	1.3966	2.2687	0.808	0.2403	0.0821*	0.7189	0.3916*	0.9489	1.1108*	—	0.958*
Zurich	1.4715	2.3886	0.8509	0.2531	0.0864*	0.7573	4.1271*	—	1.1696*	1.0528	1.0890*
1 ECU	1.1367	0.7007	1.9615	6.596	1,932.27	2.2047	40.4535	1.6669	142.996	1.5868	165.481
1 SDR	1.3669	0.8434	2.3587	7.9322	2,323.63	2.6514	48.633	2.0062	172.442	1.9065	198.986

Closings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, Paris and Zurich, fixings in other centers; New York at 4p.m. and Toronto rates at 3p.m.
*a: To buy one pound; b: To buy one dollar; *Units of 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.*

Other Dollar Values

Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $
Argent. peso	0.9998	Greek drac.	271.11	Mex. peso	7.8880	S. Afr. rand	4.456
Australian $	1.2968	Hong Kong $	7.7489	N. Zealand $	1.4573	S. Kor. won	893.80
Austrian sch.	12.737	Hung. forint	181.15	Norw. krone	7.034	Swed. krona	7.679
Brazil real	1.065	Indian rupee	35.79	Phil. peso	26.35	Taiwan $	27.61
Chinese yuan	8.3261	Indo. rupiah	2406.38	Polish zloty	3.13	Thai baht	26.09
Czech koruna	30.72	Irish £	0.6502	Port. escudo	172.74	Turkish lira	132170.
Danish krone	6.564	Israeli shek.	3.3989	Russ ruble	5740.0	UAE dirham	3.6728
Egypt. pound	3.3934	Kuw dinar	0.3017	Saudi riyal	3.75	Venez. boliv.	477.50
Fin. markka	5.1646	Malay. ringg.	2.51	Sing. $	1.44		

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Pound Sterling	1.6201	1.6193	1.6186	Japanese yen	125.08	124.53	123.97
Canadian dollar	1.3935	1.3910	1.3885	Swiss franc	1.4591	1.4545	1.4497
Deutsche mark	1.7207	1.7172	1.7134				

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Indosuez Bank (Brussels); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Banque de France (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo).

Libid-Libor Rates

April 16

	Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	Sterling	French Franc	Yen	ECU
1-month	5 1/2 - 5 5/8	3 1/8 - 3 1/4	1 1/8 - 1 1/4	6 - 6 1/8	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	3/16 - 5/16	4 - 4 1/8
3-month	5 3/4 - 5 13/16	3 1/8 - 3 1/4	1 1/4 - 1 5/16	6 1/4 - 6 3/8	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	7/16 - 9/16	4 - 4 1/8
6-month	5 7/8 - 6	3 1/8 - 3 1/4	1 5/16 - 1 7/16	6 7/16 - 6 5/8	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	1/2 - 5/8	4 1/16 - 4 3/16
1-year	6 1/4 - 6 3/8	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	1 3/8 - 1 9/16	6 13/16 - 6 15/16	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	5/8 - 3/4	4 1/8 - 4 1/4

Sources: Reuters, Lloyds Bank.
Rates applicable to interbank deposits of $1 million minimum (or equivalent).

Key Money Rates

United States	Close	Prev
Discount rate	5.00	5.00
Prime rate	8 1/2	8 1/2
Federal funds	5 9/16	5 9/16
90-day CDs dealers	5.73	5.86
180-day CP dealers	5.70	5.70
3 month Treasury bill	5.15	5.15
1-year Treasury bill	5.64	5.63
2-year Treasury bill	6.46	6.42
5-year Treasury note	6.79	6.75
7-year Treasury note	6.83	6.80
10-year Treasury note	6.89	6.87
30-year Treasury bond	7.10	7.08
Merrill Lynch 30-day RA	4.92	4.92
Japan		
Discount rate	0.50	0.50
Call money	0.38	0.41
1-month interbank	0.56	0.56
3-month interbank	0.59	0.59
6-month interbank	0.63	0.63
10-year Gov't bond	2.34	2.34
Germany		
Lombard rate	4.50	4.50
Call money	3.12	3.15
1-month interbank	3.25	3.25
3-month interbank	3.27	3.27
6-month interbank	3.28	3.28
10-year Bund	5.84	5.85

Britain		
Bank base rate	6.00	6.00
Call money	5 15/16	6.00
1-month interbank	6 1/16	6 1/8
3-month interbank	6 1/8	6 5/16
6-month interbank	6 5/16	6 3/8
10-year Gilt	7.56	7.58
France		
Intervention rate	3.10	3.10
Call money	3 3/8	3 5/16
1-month interbank	3 1/4	3 5/16
3-month interbank	3 1/4	3 1/4
6-month interbank	3 1/4	3 1/4
10-year OAT	5.72	5.72

Sources: Reuters, Bloomberg, Merrill Lynch, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Commerzbank, Credit Lyonnais.

Gold

	A.M.	P.M.	Ch'ge
Zurich	341.45	340.00	—1.90
London	341.45	339.90	—3.10
New York	344.20	343.30	—0.60

U.S. dollars per ounce. London official fixings; Zurich and New York opening and closing prices; New York Comex (June.)
Source: Reuters.

REPUBLIC NEW YORK CORPORATION
SAFRA REPUBLIC HOLDINGS S.A.

Consolidated Statements of Condition and Summaries of Results

These statements and summaries represent the consolidated accounts of Republic New York Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries and of Safra Republic Holdings S.A. and its wholly owned subsidiaries. Republic New York Corporation owns 49.1% of Safra Republic Holdings S.A., which is accounted for by the equity method.

	REPUBLIC NEW YORK CORPORATION March 31,		SAFRA REPUBLIC HOLDINGS S.A. March 31,	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
	(in thousands of US$ except per share data)			
Assets				
Cash and due from banks	$ 687,383	$ 747,767	$ 77,119	$ 36,176
Interest-bearing deposits with banks	4,917,490	6,003,656	6,508,929	5,777,815
Precious metals	1,268,801	1,145,745	—	—
Investment securities	22,799,972	19,301,429	8,583,646	7,956,072
Trading account assets	5,572,868	3,580,673	245,338	139,025
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under resale agreements	1,420,216	890,924	—	—
Loans, net of unearned income	12,286,082	11,062,712	2,002,457	1,423,509
Allowance for possible credit losses	(352,667)	(339,209)	(131,436)	(129,537)
Other assets	6,368,728	4,750,562	711,379	473,443
Total assets	$ 54,968,873	$ 47,144,259	$ 17,997,432	$ 15,676,503
Liabilities				
Total deposits	$ 31,918,795	$ 29,106,509	$ 14,013,184	$ 12,077,857
Trading account liabilities	4,975,494	3,157,109	187,375	93,215
Short-term borrowings	5,896,133	4,053,311	1,564,058	1,367,562
Other liabilities	4,795,581	3,892,478	372,386	472,332
Long-term debt	1,437,973	1,499,037	155,000	175,000
Subordinated long-term debt and perpetual capital notes	2,400,000	2,406,463	—	—
Manditorily redeemable preferred securities	350,000	—	—	—
Shareholders' Equity				
Cumulative preferred stock	400,000	575,000	—	—
Common stock and surplus, net of treasury shares	734,694	843,891	891,129	889,232
Retained earnings	1,990,597	1,702,801	690,289	601,076
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on *securities available for sale, net of taxes*	69,606	(92,340)	124,011	229
Total shareholders' equity	3,194,897	3,029,352	1,705,429	1,490,537
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	$ 54,968,873	$ 47,144,259	$ 17,997,432	$ 15,676,503
Book value per share	$ 51.32	$ 44.03	$ 96.67	$ 84.65
Client portfolio assets held in custody			$ 13,995,184	$ 7,369,467
Net income, for the year ended	$ 110,244	$ 99,592	$ 57,198	$ 44,019
Net income per common share (primary)	$ 1.89	$ 1.64	$ 3.24	$ 2.50
Average common shares outstanding (primary)	54,809	56,021	17,642	17,608

Risk-Based Capital Ratios

As of March 31, 1997, Republic New York Corporation's risk-based core capital ratio was 12.70% (estimated) and total qualifying capital ratio was 21.40% (estimated). The ratios include the assets, risk-weighted in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Reserve Board specifically applied to Republic New York Corporation on a fully consolidated basis, and capital of Safra Republic Holdings S.A. Total consolidated assets under these requirements exceeded US$ 70 billion and total consolidated capital, including minority interest and subordinated debt, was approximately US$ 7 billion.

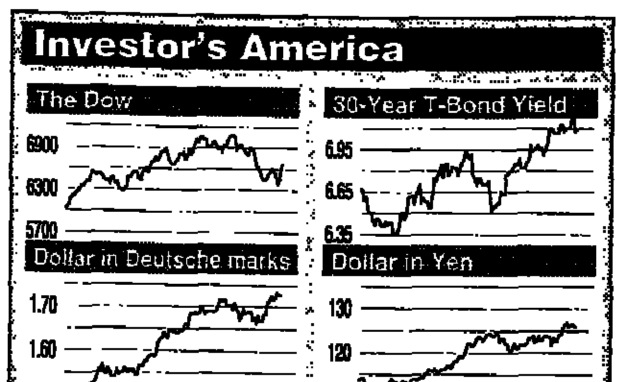
Republic New York Corporation
Fifth Avenue at 40th Street
New York, New York 10018

Safra Republic Holdings S.A.
32, boulevard Royal
L-2449 Luxembourg

Banking Locations
New York • Geneva • London • Beijing • Beirut • Beverly Hills • Buenos Aires • Cayman Islands • Copenhagen • Encino • Gibraltar • Guernsey • Hong Kong • Jakarta • Los Angeles • Lugano • Luxembourg • Manila • Mexico City • Miami • Milan • Monte Carlo • Montevideo • Montreal • Moscow • Nassau • Paris • Punta del Este • Rio de Janeiro • Santiago • Sao Paulo • Singapore • Sydney • Taipei • Tokyo • Toronto • Zurich

THE AMERICAS

Investor's America



Exchange	Index	Wednesday @4PM	Prev. Close	% Change
NYSE	The Dow	6679.87	6587.16	+1.41
NYSE	S&P 500	763.53	754.72	+1.17
NYSE	S&P 100	742.25	735.41	+0.93
NYSE	Composite	401.75	397.62	+1.04
U.S.	Nasdaq Composite	1210.98	1213.72	-0.20
AMEX	Market Value	556.57	555.06	+0.26
Toronto	TSE Index	5802.39	5733.10	+1.21
São Paulo	Bovespa	9565.78	9490.18	+0.80
Mexico City	Bolsa	3858.89	3793.24	+1.65
Buenos Aires	Merval	715.35	705.73	+1.36
Santiago	IPSA General	5369.65	5319.07	+0.78
Caracas	Capital General	6222.66	6239.24	-0.12

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters — International Herald Tribune

Wall Street Gains on Tobacco's Rise

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stocks rose Wednesday, lifted by tobacco issues and strong earnings reports, particularly from Ford Motor.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 92.71 points higher at 6,679.87.

The S&P 500-stock index gained 8.81 points to 763.53.

Tobacco shares rose on news that America's biggest tobacco companies were holding talks to settle smoking-related liability lawsuits.

Richard Ciardullo, head trader at Liberty Investment Management, said the talks were positive for the sector because "it would remove a lot of the uncertainty in the industry."

Philip Morris soared 4⅛ to 43⅛ after it said first-quarter earnings rose 13 percent, in line with analysts' expectations. The company said smokers had bought more of its higher-priced cigarettes, such as Marlboro.

The maker of Kraft foods and Miller beer said net income rose to $1.77 billion from $1.57 billion in the year-earlier period.

The earnings were paced by higher sales of Marlboro, which accounts for a third of all U.S. cigarette sales.

"Philip Morris is gaining all the benefit as the older smoker has begun to quit and the bulk of smokers is in that younger segment," Ron Morrow, an analyst at Rodman & Renshaw Inc., said.

Higher-than-expected earnings from Ford Motor also helped lift the Dow. Ford closed 1½ higher at 34¾. The No. 2 U.S. automaker said its first-quarter profit more than doubled from a year earlier to $1.5 billion with a strong improvement in its automotive operations.

Ford's earnings compared with profit of $653 million in the first quarter of 1996. Revenue totaled $36.2 billion, up 3 percent from $35.2 billion in the year-earlier period.

Ford's automotive operations earned $1 billion, a sevenfold increase from the $142 million they generated in the 1996 period.

RJR Nabisco soared 3¼ to 33¼ after shareholders rejected a new bid to split the company's tobacco business from its food interests and as its chairman, Steven Goldstone, confirmed he was discussing a settlement of tobacco lawsuits.

Last year, the corporate raiders Bennett LeBow and Carl Icahn failed in an attempt to unseat RJR's board and spin off the food business, which includes Ritz crackers and Oreo cookies, from the tobacco operations.

Clarify was among the most active stocks, plunging 9¾ to 7 after the maker of custom-support software said it expected little or no revenue growth in the second quarter from the first.

Bond prices fell after the Federal Reserve reported that industrial output surged 0.9 percent in March. The rise, nearly double what economists had expected, brought the industrial operating rate to the highest level in two years.

"Right now, interest rates are more important than earnings," said Philip Orlando, chief investment officer at Value Line Asset Management.

"The market is moving on economic statistics and momentum."

Mr. Orlando said a Federal Reserve report out Wednesday showing robust factory output in March heightened expectations that the Fed's policy panel would raise rates when it met May 20.

The price of the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 3/32 to 94 6/32, taking the yield to 7.10 percent from 7.08 percent Tuesday. *(Bloomberg, AP)*

U.S. STOCKS

Yen Advances On Tokyo's Hints

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — The dollar fell against the yen Wednesday for a second day after a Japanese official hinted that the nation's central bank may sell dollars to bolster the ailing yen.

But the dollar gained against major European currencies after a U.S. report showed that factory output rose in March, suggesting the Federal Reserve Board bank may raise interest rates again to try to cool the economy and stave off inflation.

Eisuke Sakakibara, director general of the Japanese Finance Ministry's International Finance Bureau, said the yen's weakness was "excessive" and suggested Japan may buy yen for dollars to stop its slide, Nikkei English News reported.

The dollar was quoted in late trading at 125.775 yen, down from 126.125 yen Tuesday, and at 1.7288 Deutsche marks, up from 1.7270 DM.

Mr. Sakakibara also said U.S. and Japanese officials were in agreement about the effects of the weak yen.

That "raises the prospect of coordinated intervention, which in the past has been tremendously successful," said John Hanly, manager of foreign exchange at Bank Austria. "That's what scares traders."

Concern the Bank of Japan may sell dollars mounted after the dollar rose to a recent 55-month high of 127.17 yen, prompting Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka to say Japan would take "decisive" action at an "appropriate" time.

The yen has declined 7.9 percent against the dollar since the beginning of the year.

U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, meanwhile, warned Japan not to use exports to bring itself out of recession. "We do not want to see an increase in the Japanese trade surplus with the United States," she said.

Against other major currencies, the dollar was quoted at 1.4720 Swiss francs, up from 1.4670 francs, and at 5.8120 French francs, down from 5.8126 francs. The pound fell to $1.6248 from $1.6288.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Very briefly:

Diamond Bid Hurts Total's Shares

DENVER (Bloomberg) — Total Petroleum (North America) Ltd.'s shares plummeted Wednesday because Ultramar Diamond Shamrock Corp.'s offer for the company was below the Tuesday closing stock price.

Ultramar Diamond Shamrock said Tuesday it agreed to exchange 0.322 share for each share of Total Petroleum. The transaction valued Total Petroleum at $9.98 a share, based on Tuesday's Ultramar Diamond closing price of $31. Total Petroleum's shares were quoted down $2 at $9.50 in late trading.

Harcourt General Sets Bid for NEC

CHESTNUT HILL, Massachusetts (Bloomberg) — Harcourt General Inc. said Wednesday it would begin a $19.50-a-share, $740 million cash tender offer to buy National Education Corp., which it said was 15 percent higher than Sylvan Learning Systems Inc.'s stock-swap offer for National Education.

Harcourt General also said its cash offer was 54.5 percent higher than National Education's share price on March 4, five trading days before the Sylvan offer was made.

- **AMR Corp.**'s first-quarter profit fell 3 percent, to $152 million, as the threat of a February pilots strike at its American Airlines unit caused passengers to fly on other carriers.
- **Merck & Co.**'s first-quarter earnings rose 18 percent, to $1.02 billion, because of increased sales of its established drugs and the introduction of new products.
- **Time Warner Inc.** reported net income of $35 million in the first quarter, compared with a loss of $119 million a year ago, and cited benefits from the acquisition of **Turner Broadcasting Co.** and higher profits from its cable television.
- **The Sands Hotel** in Las Vegas unveiled a $2 billion plan to build the world's largest hotel and casino, which will have a Venetian theme. *Bloomberg, AP*

Tech Companies Post Solid Earnings

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HOUSTON — Technology-sector companies reported strong profits Wednesday, led by Compaq Computer Corp., which said earnings jumped 65 percent in the first quarter, strengthened by a 14 percent growth in sales.

The No. 1 personal-computer maker also said it expected strong growth throughout 1997.

Compaq said it earned $387 million, up from $234 million in last year's quarter. Sales grew to $4.61 billion from $4.21 billion.

But Compaq's stock retreated after an early rally on the New York Stock Exchange and closed at $73.375 a share, down $1.25. Some analysts said the company's sales were disappointing.

The company said unit sales rose 28 percent amid rising demand from businesses and consumers.

Compaq's line of computers priced below $1,000, introduced this year, was selling briskly and buoying overall sales in the consumer market, Earl Mason, chief financial officer, said.

Compaq also said it had reduced the time it took to get its products to market, which pared inventory costs.

Separately, Sun Microsystems Inc. reported a 56 percent jump in third-quarter profit late Tuesday. The company's earnings were buoyed by record revenue and an investment gain.

Sun earned $223.5 million in the quarter ended March 30, compared with $143.3 million for the like period last year. Revenue rose 15 percent, to a record $2.11 billion.

The profit included a gain of $62.2 million from the sale of an equity investment in an Irish software company, Iona Technologies. It also reflected a one-time charge of $22.9 million in connection with its acquisition of LongView Technologies.

Sun's stock fell $1.9375 to $27.4375. An analyst at Hambrecht & Quist lowered his rating on the shares to "buy" from "strong buy."

Bay Networks Inc.'s third-quarter profit plunged, but it beat analysts' expectations by cutting expenses. The maker of computer networking equipment posted a profit of $255,000, compared with $29.2 million a year earlier. Revenue fell to $512.9 million from $521.7 million.

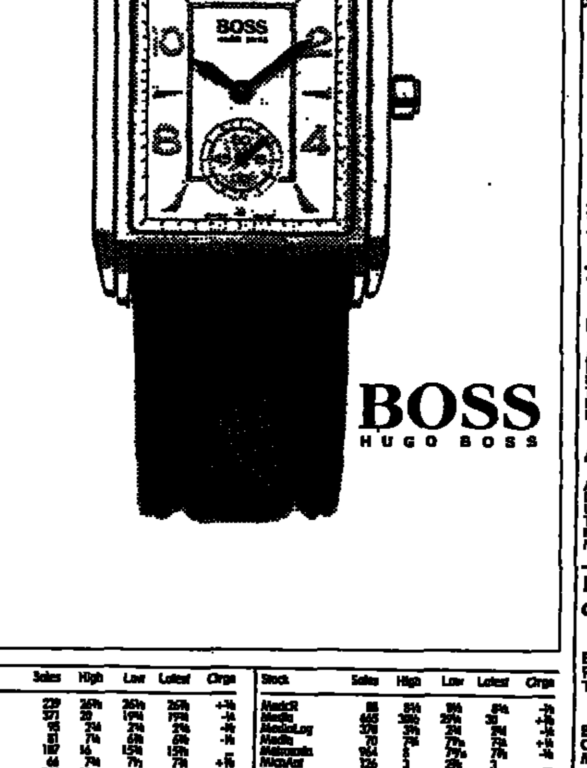
Bay Networks shares fell 62.5 cents to close at $17.625. The company took an after-tax restructuring and severance charge of $20.4 million that wiped out most of its $20.7 million in operating profit. It also cut its staff by 200 in the quarter, to 5,800 employees. It said it had been able to reduce expenses more than planned as it cut back facilities. *(Bloomberg, AP)*

AMEX

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close

The top 300 most active shares, up to the closing on Wall Street. *The Associated Press.*

Stock	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Chge
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]


BOSS
HUGO BOSS
TEMPUS CONCEPT SA - NEUCHÂTEL - SWITZERLAND - TEL: 0041 32 724 70 24

U.S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Indexes

Dow Jones

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	6573.91	6679.87	6558.66	6679.87	+92.71
Trans	2435.68	2470.20	2430.13	2462.74	+26.82
Util	211.36	213.11	210.17	213.04	+1.19
Comp	2070.07	2099.79	2064.69	2099.79	+25.39

Standard & Poors

	Previous High	Low	Close	Today 4:00
Industrials	886.39	873.10	886.39	898.46
Transp.	550.94	543.70	550.94	556.64
Utilities	184.83	182.95	183.53	184.06
Finance	85.71	83.90	85.20	85.05
SP 500	754.72	743.73	754.72	763.53
SP 100	735.41	722.76	735.41	742.25

NYSE

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	401.75	396.51	401.75	+4.13
Industrials	509.17	501.15	509.17	+4.95
Transp.	365.88	360.64	365.83	+3.83
Utility	252.39	248.98	252.39	+2.38
Finance	362.44	358.47	361.78	-0.66

Nasdaq

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	1213.02	1203.61	1208.98	-3.90
Industrials	1000.41	993.98	995.73	-4.74
Banks	1280.83	1268.03	1280.52	-2.72
Insurance	1414.44	1407.89	1410.35	-4.35
Finance	1452.99	1448.92	1451.51	-0.37
Transp.	862.26	855.12	862.26	+4.05

AMEX

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
	556.54	553.13	556.52	+1.46

Dow Jones Bond

	Close	Chg.
20 Bonds	101.46	-0.24
10 Utilities	98.24	+0.06
10 Industrials	104.68	-0.53

Most Actives

NYSE

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
PhilMor s	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FordM	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NatEdu	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ChaseM	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Compaq	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
McDnlds	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WalMart	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BayNtwk	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chrysler s	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Citicorp	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PepsiCo s	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Telmex	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FannieMae	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CocaCl s	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Nasdaq

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Cisco	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ascend	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sunmic s	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Intel	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oracle	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ApldMat	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3Com	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LamRsch	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DellCpt s	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Microsft s	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TeleComA	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WorldCm s	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Biogen s	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Abacan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Informix	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

AMEX

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
XTNCom	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SPDR	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EchoBay	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
RoyalO g	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ViacB	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GiantFd	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
IvaxCp	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GreyIndL	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TWA	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kaneb s	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Trading Activity

NYSE

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	1421	1864
Declined	1041	761
Unchanged	858	703
Total Issues	3320	3324
New Highs	37	45
New Lows	67	57

Nasdaq

	Noon	Prev.
Advanced	1555	2179
Declined	1699	1095
Unchanged	2496	1740
Total Issues	5750	5751
New Highs	33	32
New Lows	182	189

AMEX

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	271	283
Declined	240	251
Unchanged	188	183
Total Issues	699	717
New Highs	7	6
New Lows	18	18

Market Sales

	Today 4:00	Prev. cons.
NYSE	491.77	597.72
Amex	18.80	21.93
Nasdaq	534.59	572.05

In millions.

Dividends

Company	Per	Amt	Rec	Pay
IRREGULAR				
Benetton Grp ADR		.58	5-16	6-12
Portugal Tel ADS		.8023	4-23	5-9
Telec Brsira ADR		1.8365	4-29	—
STOCK SPLIT				
Britton & KoontzCap 4 for 1 split.				
Cliffs Drilling 2 for 1 split.				
Mellon Bk Cp 2 for 1 split.				
INCREASED				
Northwest Equity	Q	.12	4-25	5-2
SFS Bancorp	Q	.07	4-30	5-14
Sonoco Pdcts	Q	.18	5-16	6-10
TECO Energy	Q	.295	5-1	5-15
INITIAL				
Queens Cty Bncp n	-	.20	5-1	5-15
REGULAR				
AAR Corp	Q	.12	4-28	6-4
Associates FstCap	Q	.10	5-2	6-2
Boddie-Noell Prop	Q	.31	5-1	5-15
CCB Financial	Q	.42	6-16	7-1
Carbo Ceramics	Q	.075	4-28	5-9
Carnival Corp	Q	.11	5-30	6-13
Cigna HI IncoShrs	M	.0675	4-28	5-9
Comm BkshrsNH	Q	.16	4-30	5-9
Community Inv	Q	.10	5-9	4-25
Dayton Hudson	Q	.16	5-20	6-10
Emerald Fncl Cp	Q	.12	5-23	6-16
FFY Fncl	Q	.175	4-30	5-15
Fedl Signal	Q	.1675	5-14	6-3
Fst Empire State	Q	.80	6-2	6-30
Fst Union Corp	Q	.58	5-30	6-16
Fleet Fncl	Q	.45	6-3	7-1
KS Bancorp	Q	.15	4-25	5-5
Lennar Corp	Q	.025	5-5	5-15
OM Group Inc	Q	.08	5-16	5-30
Omega Hlthcare	Q	.645	5-2	5-15
Penn REIT	Q	.47	4-30	5-15
Permanent Bncp	Q	.075	5-2	5-16
Placer DomeInc	Q	.075	5-23	6-23
Prime Retail	Q	.295	5-1	5-15
Progressive Bank	Q	.17	4-30	5-30
Raritan Bncp	Q	.175	5-15	6-1
Republic NY Co	Q	.46	6-15	7-1
Roanoke ElecSteel	Q	.12	5-7	5-23
Santa Fe PacPipe	Q	.75	4-30	5-15
Timken Co	Q	.33	5-16	6-2
US Bncp OR	Q	.31	6-6	7-1
Village Bncp	Q	.18	4-25	5-2
Wash Mutual Inc	Q	.25	4-30	5-15
Watts Indus A	Q	.0775	5-30	6-13
Willamette Indus	Q	.32	5-26	6-12

a-annual; b-approximate amount per share/ADR; g-payable in Canadian funds; m-monthly; q-quarterly; s-semi-annual

Stock Tables Explained

Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounting to 25 percent or more has been paid, the years high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stocks only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on the latest declaration.

a - dividend also extra (s). b - annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend. c - liquidating dividend. cc - PE exceeds 99. cld - called. d - new yearly low. dd - loss in the last 12 months. e - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months. f - annual rate, increased on last declaration. g - dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence tax. i - dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend. j - dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action taken at latest dividend meeting. k - dividend declared or paid this year, an accumulative issue with dividends in arrears. m - annual rate, reduced on last declaration. n - new issue in the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading. nd - next day delivery. p - initial dividend, annual rate unknown. P/E - price-earnings ratio. q - closed-end mutual fund. r - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, plus stock dividend. s - stock split. Dividend begins with date of split. sls - sales. t - dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date. u - new yearly high. v - trading halted. vi - in bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies. wd - when distributed. wi - when issued/ ww - with warrants. x - ex-dividend or ex-rights. xdis - ex-distribution. xw - without warrants. y- ex-dividend and sales in full. yld - yield. z - sales in full.

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

April 16, 1997

Grains

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
CORN (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
May 97	303½	297	297¼	-5½	98,150
Jul 97	304½	296¾	297¼	-6¾	122,857
Sep 97	290¾	284¾	285	-5¼	21,373
Dec 97	287¼	281	282	-5¼	99,489
Mar 98	290	285½	287	-4	9,602
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 67,434					
Tue's open int 357,653 off 3140					
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT) 100 tons- dollars per ton					
May 97	276.80	270.60	273.30	-1.70	34,882
Jul 97	274.50	268.80	270.50	-2.30	36,028
Aug 97	266.50	259.00	261.30	-4.40	10,447
Sep 97	252.50	247.00	247.30	-5.70	6,733
Oct 97	231.00	225.50	226.50	-3.60	4,494
Dec 97	222.50	217.00	218.20	-4.10	13,653
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 24,726					
Tue's open int 110,008 off 298					
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) 60,000 lbs- cents per lb					
May 97	24.33	24.03	24.04	-0.14	27,207
Jul 97	24.75	24.43	24.45	-0.13	36,647
Aug 97	24.85	24.62	24.60	-0.15	9,308
Sep 97	24.95	24.67	24.71	-0.17	5,432
Oct 97	25.00	24.72	24.79	-0.19	5,197
Dec 97	25.30	24.93	24.93	-0.23	15,873
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 19,194					
Tue's open int 100,608 up 1450					
SOYBEANS (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
May 97	840½	824½	832¼	-3¾	59,059
Jul 97	846	828	837½	-3½	75,747
Aug 97	831¼	813	822	-6½	12,104
Sep 97	757	741	745¼	-8¾	6,848
Nov 97	703½	687	691	-10	38,543
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 71,051					
Tue's open int 187,043 off 1382					
WHEAT (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
May 97	416¼	406	406½	-9	11,295
Jul 97	421¼	414	415½	-6¼	51,022
Sep 97	423½	419	419¾	-6¾	10,658
Dec 97	432¾	428½	429¾	-6¾	10,093
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 40,985					
Tue's open int 83,712 up 2704					

Livestock

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
CATTLE (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Apr 97	70.45	68.80	68.80	-1.50	8,711
Jun 97	65.37	63.90	63.90	-1.50	37,980
Aug 97	64.65	63.12	63.45	-1.17	24,885
Oct 97	68.17	66.70	67.30	-0.80	15,900
Dec 97	70.85	68.75	69.35	-0.57	7,913
Feb 98	70.67	69.75	70.25	-0.45	4,400
Est. sales 1,776 Tue's. sales 20,224					
Tue's open int 100,645 off 42					
FEEDER CATTLE (CMER) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Apr 97	71.40	70.55	70.85	-0.37	1,794
May 97	71.50	70.15	70.22	-1.42	6,362
Aug 97	74.40	72.85	73.17	-1.12	6,272
Sep 97	74.25	72.70	73.10	-1.02	1,666
Oct 97	74.75	73.15	73.45	-1.20	2,353
Nov 97	76.40	75.00	75.30	-0.90	1,061
Est. sales 353 Tue's. sales 3,695					
Tue's open int 19,844 up 310					
HOGS-Lean (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jun 97	83.90	83.02	83.45	+0.37	15,586
Jul 97	83.47	82.65	83.12	+0.50	4,862
Aug 97	80.60	79.92	80.42	+0.37	3,499
Oct 97	73.65	73.05	73.57	+0.25	3,106
Dec 97	71.40	70.85	71.15	+0.20	2,095
Feb 98	70.10	70.00	70.10	+0.30	528
Est. sales 322 Tue's. sales 7,463					
Tue's open int 32,416 up 514					
PORK BELLIES (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97	84.95	82.25	84.55	+1.95	3,697
Jul 97	84.05	81.30	83.45	+1.87	2,402
Aug 97	81.20	78.90	80.10	+1.30	738
Feb 98	73.50	72.22	72.22	+1.02	154
Mar 98	72.00	72.00	72.00	+1.00	6
May 98			72.00		2
Est. sales 73 Tue's. sales 2,191					
Tue's open int 7,004 off 115					

Food

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
COCOA (NCSE) 10 metric tons- $ per ton					
May 97	1417	1397	1400	-14	4,854
Jul 97	1457	1435	1439	-16	32,548
Sep 97	1477	1461	1461	-16	12,840
Dec 97	1494	1482	1484	-14	15,494
Mar 98	1520	1512	1507	-14	19,480
Est. sales 12,028 Tue's. sales 10,461					
Tue's open int 95,283 off 32					
COFFEE C (NCSE) 37,500 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97	213.00	203.00	208.05	+15.65	7,969
Jul 97	189.00	183.00	185.30	+10.65	11,220
Sep 97	166.95	166.95	169.20	+8.25	6,807
Dec 97	151.40	150.56	151.88	+6.40	4,125
Est. sales 12,845 Tue's. sales 11,903					
Tue's open int 31,881 up 248					
SUGAR-WORLD 11 (NCSE) 112,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97	11.10	10.87	10.95	-0.18	55,622
Jul 97	10.99	10.78	10.85	-0.16	64,546
Oct 97	10.78	10.65	10.68	-0.11	32,345
Mar 98	10.70	10.61	10.64	-0.06	19,123
Est. sales 44,599 Tue's. sales 11,702					
Tue's open int 177,789 up 3967					
ORANGE JUICE (NCTN) 15,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97	77.00	74.50	76.70	+1.90	10,132
Jul 97	79.60	77.00	79.20	+1.90	10,519
Sep 97	82.80	79.90	81.75	+1.90	4,818
Nov 97	84.50	83.00	84.70	+2.10	2,120
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 3,440					
Tue's open int 29,221 up 157					

Metals

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
GOLD (NCMX) 100 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Apr 97	341.00	337.00	341.10	-0.60	882
May 97			341.90	-0.60	2
Jun 97	344.30	339.50	343.30	-0.60	72,581
Aug 97	346.80	342.00	345.80	-0.70	15,109
Oct 97	348.90	346.00	348.40	-0.70	6,203
Dec 97	351.80	347.00	351.30	-0.70	21,631
Feb 98	353.20	350.00	354.20	-0.70	5,064
Apr 98	355.90	355.90	356.80	-0.70	3,026
Est. sales 60,000 Tue's. sales 74,214					
Tue's open int 159,410 up 9028					
HI GRADE COPPER (NCMX) 25,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Apr 97	107.80	105.80	106.20	-1.60	2,115
May 97	106.80	104.50	105.15	-1.10	20,081
Jun 97	105.40	104.00	104.60	-0.90	1,661
Jul 97	105.30	103.50	104.05	-0.70	10,499
Aug 97			103.25	-0.70	824
Sep 97	103.40	102.00	102.45	-0.70	4,267
Oct 97			101.70	-0.70	696
Nov 97	101.70	101.00	101.00	-0.80	781
Dec 97	101.10	100.10	100.30	-0.70	6,074
Est. sales 9,000 Tue's. sales 7,670					
Tue's open int 58,786 up 874					
SILVER (NCMX) 5,000 troy oz.- cents per troy oz.					
Apr 97			476.18	+6.30	2
May 97	479.50	470.50	477.00	+6.20	52,024
Jun 97			479.50	+6.20	2
Jul 97	484.50	475.50	482.00	+6.30	28,499
Sep 97	488.50	481.00	486.80	+6.30	3,457
Dec 97	497.00	488.00	494.20	+6.40	5,911
Jan 98			496.80	+6.50	17
Mar 98	503.00	502.50	502.00	+6.70	5,939
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 17,646					
Tue's open int 101,823 up 1685					
PLATINUM (NMER) 50 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Apr 97			369.80	+5.00	20
May 97			388.50		
Jun 97			387.50		
Jul 97	372.90	366.50	371.80	+4.30	12,924
Oct 97	373.00	373.00	373.90	+4.20	2,271
Jan 98			376.10	+4.20	1,175
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 2,562					
Tue's open int 16,241					

LONDON METALS (LME) Dollars per metric ton

	Close		Previous	
Aluminum (High Grade)				
Spot	1515.00	1516.00	1518.00	1519.00
Forward	1550.00	1551.00	1553.00	1554.00
Copper Cathodes (High Grade)				
Spot	2306.00	2309.00	2316½	2319½
Forward	2271.00	2272.00	2281.00	2283.00
Lead				
Spot	632.00	633.00	633.00	634.00
Forward	640.00	641.00	642.00	643.00
Nickel				
Spot	7165.00	7175.00	7235.00	7245.00
Forward	7280.00	7285.00	7350.00	7355.00
Tin				
Spot	5665.00	5675.00	5685.00	5695.00
Forward	5715.00	5720.00	5735.00	5745.00
Zinc (Special High Grade)				
Spot	1224.00	1225.00	1234½	1235½
Forward	1247.00	1248.00	1258.00	1259.00

Financial

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
US T. BILLS (CMER) $1 million- pts of 100 pct.					
Jun 97	94.59	94.57	94.59		6,952
Sep 97	94.32	94.32	94.32	+0.02	3,776
Dec 97			94.48		847
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 278					
Tue's open int 10,728 off 163					
5 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 64ths of 100 pct					
Jun 97	104-27	104-05	104-21	-04	245,578
Sep 97	103-61	103-53	104-02	-06	1,190
Dec 97			103-58		10
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 50,768					
Tue's open int 246,768 up 2052					
10 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Jun 97	105-27	105-10	105-22	-03	333,583
Sep 97	105-11	104-31	105-07	-04	23,057
Dec 97			104-31		1,800
Mar 98			104-16		1
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 91,038					
Tue's open int 358,440 up 2862					
US TREASURY BONDS (CBOT) (8 pct-$100,000-pts & 32nds of 100 pct)					
Jun 97	107-23	106-29	107-15	-05	463,042
Sep 97	107-08	106-15	107-01	-05	35,411
Dec 97	106-13	106-08	106-08	-17	6,262
Mar 98			106-15		1,955
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 438,482					
Tue's open int 506,737 up 18126					
LONG GILT (LIFFE) £50,000 - pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Jun97	109-30	109-16	109-22	-0-02	170,079
Sep97	109-15	109-15	109-17	-0-02	2,635
Est. sales: 50,906. Prev. sales: 69,082					
Prev. open int.: 172,714 up 2,467					
GERMAN GOVERNMENT BUND (LIFFE) DM250,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Jun97	101.02	100.53	100.44	-0.23	264,970
Sep97	99.84	99.80	99.63	-0.22	7,281
Est. sales: 211,782. Prev. sales: 272,838					
Prev. open int.: 272,251 up 6,978					
10-YEAR FRENCH GOV. BONDS (MATIF) FF500,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 97	129.34	128.90	129.02	+0.00	162,438
Sep 97	127.50	127.42	127.38	+0.00	5,363
Dec 97	97.14	97.14	97.02	+0.00	0
Est. volume: 144,151. Open int.: 168,001 up 1,007.					
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BOND (LIFFE) ITL 200 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun97	129.02	128.36	128.52	-0.50	106,545
Sep97	128.70	128.30	128.53	-0.44	4,238
Est. sales: 48,121. Prev. sales: 72,061					
Prev. open int.: 110,783 off 4,344					
EURODOLLARS (CMER) $1 million-pts of 100 pct.					
May 97	94.08	94.06	94.08		34,475
Jun 97	94.00	93.97	94.00		488,942
Jul 97	93.90	93.86	93.89		3,406
Sep 97	93.72	93.66	93.70	-0.01	424,809
Dec 97	93.42	93.34	93.41		300,503
Mar 98	93.26	93.18	93.25		225,275
Jun 98	93.14	93.06	93.12	-0.01	199,452
Sep 98	93.05	92.97	93.03	-0.01	156,054
Dec 98	92.96	92.87	92.94	-0.01	128,522
Mar 99	92.96	92.88	92.94	-0.01	180,984
Jun 99	92.93	92.88	92.91	-0.01	80,171
Sep 99	92.96	92.84	92.89	-0.01	60,865
Dec 99	92.85	92.78	92.83	-0.01	58,594
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 605,567					
Tue's open int 2,559,075 off 18449					
BRITISH POUND (CMER) 62,500 pounds, $ per pound					
Jun 97	1.6278	1.6178	1.6232		35,731
Sep 97	1.6216	1.6160	1.6196		880
Dec 97			1.6218		181
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 7,452					
Tue's open int 36,712 up 32					
CANADIAN DOLLAR (CMER) 100,000 dollars, $ per Cdn. dlr					
Jun 97	.7194	.7174	.7192		77,191
Sep 97	.7230	.7210	.7230		4,835
Dec 97	.7264	.7242	.7264		1,193
Mar 98	.7295	.7295	.7295		772
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 8,104					
Tue's open int 84,124 up 341					
GERMAN MARK (CMER) 125,000 marks, $ per mark					
Jun 97	.5827	.5804	.5810		83,981
Sep 97	.5866	.5847	.5852		2,582
Dec 97			.5902		249
Mar 98			.5946		27
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 23,178					
Tue's open int 86,439 up 1222					
JAPANESE YEN (CMER) 12.5 million yen, $ per 100 yen					
Jun 97	.8038	.7985	.8022		82,123
Sep 97	.8150	.8128	.8148		1,398
Dec 97	.8250	.8250	.8250		623
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 10,641					
Tue's open int 84,154 up 225					
SWISS FRANC (CMER) 125,000 francs, $ per franc					
Jun 97	.6861	.6835	.6841		42,762
Sep 97	.6949	.6907	.6906		2,122
Dec 97			.7016		379
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 12,616					
Tue's open int 45,313 up 27					
3-MONTH STERLING (LIFFE) £500,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Jun97	93.46	93.41	93.43	Unch.	117,994
Sep97	93.21	93.14	93.17	Unch.	95,442
Dec97	92.98	92.90	92.94	Unch.	75,802
Mar98	92.81	92.74	92.77	Unch.	49,894
Jun98	92.67	92.60	92.64	Unch.	39,912
Sep98	92.57	92.50	92.54	Unch.	27,439
Dec98	92.46	92.41	92.45	+0.01	21,532
Mar99	92.39	92.36	92.38	+0.01	13,137
Jun99	92.33	92.31	92.32	+0.01	9,586
Sep99	92.27	92.24	92.25	+0.01	8,413
Dec99	92.22	92.20	92.21	+0.01	6,071
Mar00	92.18	92.13	92.15	-0.01	1,491
Est. sales: 70,680. Prev. sales: 64,456					
Prev. open int.: 466,935 up 1,494					
3-MONTH EUROMARK (LIFFE) DM1 million - pts of 100 pct					
May97	96.75	96.75	96.75	-0.01	3,748
Jun97	96.77	96.74	96.75	Unch.	223,927
Jul97	96.75	96.74	96.74	-0.01	400
Sep97	96.71	96.66	96.70	Unch.	196,820
Dec97	96.58	96.53	96.55	-0.01	213,061
Mar98	96.43	96.37	96.40	Unch.	171,973
Jun98	96.23	96.18	96.20	Unch.	139,807
Sep98	96.01	95.96	95.98	Unch.	115,928
Dec98	95.76	95.69	95.72	-0.01	72,899
Mar99	95.49	95.44	95.46	Unch.	63,458
Jun99	95.22	95.19	95.20	Unch.	35,153
Sep99	94.95	94.92	94.93	Unch.	26,836
Dec99	94.68	94.66	94.66	Unch.	30,493
Mar00	94.43	94.42	94.42	Unch.	10,549
Est. sales: 147,311. Prev. sales: 195,444					
Prev. open int.: 1,318,513 up 3,424					
3-MONTH EUROLIRA (LIFFE) ITL 1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun97	93.28	93.17	93.22	-0.06	107,918
Sep97	93.61	93.50	93.54	-0.06	69,150
Dec97	93.74	93.63	93.66	-0.07	42,020
Mar98	93.75	93.65	93.69	-0.06	26,751
Jun98	93.67	93.61	93.66	-0.04	16,482
Sep98	93.61	93.53	93.58	-0.03	5,149
Dec98	93.50	93.42	93.49	-0.03	1,024
Mar99	93.41	93.35	93.38	-0.03	1,050
Est. sales: 50,641. Prev. sales: 54,447					
Prev. open int.: 270,344 up 178					
3-MONTH PIBOR (MATIF) FF5 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 97	96.71	96.67	96.68	-0.02	59,576
Sep 97	96.66	96.62	96.63	-0.01	51,587
Dec 97	96.56	96.52	96.53	-0.01	33,621
Mar 98	96.44	96.39	96.40	-0.01	26,016
Jun 98	96.26	96.22	96.23	-0.01	19,083
Sep 98	96.06	96.02	96.03	-0.01	17,832
Dec 98	95.81	95.77	95.78	+0.00	13,043
Mar 99	95.55	95.53	95.54	+0.01	12,474
Jun 99	95.29	95.28	95.29	+0.01	6,781
Sep 99	95.06	95.03	95.05	-0.01	4,402
Dec 99	94.81	94.81	94.81	+0.00	5,993
Mar 00	94.56	94.56	94.56	-0.01	2,079
Est. volume: 48,538. Open int.: 252,497 up 6,464.					

Industrials

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
COTTON 2 (NCTN) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 97	71.76	70.50	70.88	-0.88	24,230
Jul 97	73.20	72.20	72.40	-1.00	25,955
Oct 97	74.30	73.90	74.20	-0.45	2,036
Dec 97	75.45	74.70	75.20	-0.40	21,999
Mar 98	76.30	76.00	76.30	-0.40	2,708
May 98	77.00	76.50	76.50	-0.85	640
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 14,140					
Tue's open int 78,490 up 118					
HEATING OIL (NMER) 42,000 gal, cents per gal					
May 97	54.84	53.20	53.50	-1.35	29,440
Jun 97	53.67	52.40	52.80	-1.09	27,265
Jul 97	53.70	52.75	53.05	-0.89	21,556
Aug 97	54.30	53.50	53.75	-0.69	11,964
Sep 97	55.10	54.25	54.50	-0.69	7,152
Oct 97	55.65	55.20	55.30	-0.64	6,771
Nov 97	56.50	55.90	56.00	-0.64	4,833
Dec 97	57.20	56.50	56.70	-0.54	11,700
Jan 98	57.40	57.00	57.05	-0.54	6,382
Feb 98	57.30	56.65	56.85	-0.44	3,088
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 30,014					
Tue's open int 141,101					
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NMER) 1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.					
May 97	19.85	19.37	19.48	-0.35	49,519
Jun 97	19.80	19.36	19.43	-0.35	94,892
Jul 97	19.82	19.45	19.47	-0.33	43,754
Aug 97	19.70	19.48	19.50	-0.30	27,437
Sep 97	19.69	19.45	19.42	-0.32	17,703
Oct 97	19.65	19.47	19.48	-0.31	16,019
Nov 97	19.67	19.40	19.40	-0.18	12,827
Dec 97	19.67	19.40	19.54	-0.23	20,018
Jan 98	19.63	19.33	19.56	-0.20	13,899
Feb 98	19.63	19.45	19.45	-0.30	7,782
Mar 98	19.61	19.61	19.60	-0.13	3,885
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 109,482					
Tue's open int 418,692 up 100					
NATURAL GAS (NMER) 10,000 mm btu's, $ per mm btu					
May 97	1.999	1.935	1.999		23,469
Jun 97	2.040	1.975	2.035		27,270
Jul 97	2.060	2.020	2.060		14,696
Aug 97	2.075	2.040	2.075		10,906
Sep 97	2.075	2.050	2.080		11,514
Oct 97	2.105	2.078	2.105		13,531
Nov 97	2.235	2.215	2.230		6,677
Dec 97	2.355	2.345	2.355		10,150
Jan 98	2.405	2.380	2.410		10,628
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 30,734					
Tue's open int 178,515					
UNLEADED GASOLINE (NMER) 42,000 gal, cents per gal					
May 97	61.95	60.20	60.45	-1.45	35,344
Jun 97	61.25	59.90	60.15	-1.32	36,396
Jul 97	60.35	59.20	59.40	-1.17	12,547
Aug 97	59.00	58.25	58.30	-1.17	5,558
Sep 97	57.90	57.40	57.00	-1.17	2,862
Oct 97	56.00	55.90	56.00	-0.57	1,811
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 21,296					
Tue's open int 100,854					
GASOIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per metric ton - lots of 100 tons					
May 97	163.75	162.00	162.75	-2.50	25,329
Jun 97	164.75	163.50	163.75	-2.75	9,225
Jul 97	166.50	165.50	165.50	-2.75	6,188
Aug 97	168.00	167.50	167.75	-2.25	4,074
Sept 97	170.00	169.50	169.50	-2.25	2,202
Oct 97	171.75	171.00	171.50	-2.25	2,699
Nov 97	173.00	173.00	172.50	-2.25	866
Dec 97	174.75	173.50	173.50	-2.25	6,945
Jan 98	175.00	174.75	174.25	-2.25	1,150
Feb 98	173.00	173.00	172.50	-2.25	150
Est. sales: 12,435. Open int.: 60,159 off 869					
BRENT OIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per barrel - lots of 1,000 barrels					
June 97	18.05	17.78	17.81	-0.33	77,628
July 97	18.19	17.98	18.00	-0.32	27,904
Aug 97	18.36	18.16	18.16	-0.28	12,522
Sep 97	18.40	18.32	18.25	-0.25	8,198
Oct 97	18.43	18.30	18.20	-0.24	6,184
Nov97	18.45	18.35	18.32	-0.24	5,187
Dec97	18.45	18.43	18.33	-0.23	8,500
Jan98	18.42	18.40	18.34	-0.22	3,210
Est. sales: 31,449. Open int.: 157,775 off 14,492					

Stock Indexes

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
S&P COMP. INDEX (CMER) 500 x index					
Jun 97	761.70	755.75	764.70	+5.00	181,465
Sep 97	769.30	763.90	772.20	+4.85	5,420
Dec 97	777.10	772.00	777.10	+1.50	3,189
Mar 98	782.50	782.50	782.50	-2.25	301
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 89,005					
Tue's open int 190,375 off 324					
FTSE 100 (LIFFE) £25 per index point					
Jun97	4330.0	4322.0	4311.0	-3.0	40,540
Sep97	4337.0	4337.0	4336.0	-4.0	2,895
Est. sales: 8,466. Prev. sales: 13,850					
Prev. open int.: 63,455 off 548					
CAC 40 (MATIF) FF200 per index point					
Apr 97	2642.0	2603.0	2618.0	+55.00	23,532
May 97	2625.5	2595.5	2604.0	+55.50	4,684
Jun 97	2598.5	2572.0	2579.5	+55.50	22,178
Sep 97	2615.5	2584.0	2593.5	+55.00	8,863
Dec 97	N.T.	N.T.	2613.5	+55.00	0
Mar 98	N.T.	N.T.	2635.5	+55.00	7,637
Sep 98	N.T.	N.T.	2414.5	+55.00	1,245
Est. volume: 14,452. Open int.: 68,139 up 1,456.					

Commodity Indexes

	Close	Previous
Moody's	1,574.10	1,574.00
Reuters	1,950.30	1,953.90
D.J. Futures	157.53	156.97
CRB	243.25	243.71

مكتبة الأمل

Bid to Raise Fokker From Bankruptcy Reaches 'Bitter' End

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

THE HAGUE — The government said Wednesday that the effort to rescue the jetmaker Fokker NV from bankruptcy had ended.

"This is a bitter conclusion, especially for the Fokker employees who have dedicated themselves until the end," Economics Minister Hans Wijers said.

He said the government had decided to withdraw funds that had been pledged to keep the 80-year-old company going until a resumption of its activities could be arranged.

The announcement came two weeks after Stork NV, which owns Fokker's profitable maintenance and components units, broke off talks with a Malaysian government-owned investment company on restarting the aircraft maker.

Fokker's administrators, the Dutch government, the industrial investment firm Deleye Investment Group and the Malaysian state investment arm Khazanah Nasional Bhd. agreed to a memorandum of understanding on Fokker's relaunching in March.

But Stork withdrew from the plan in early April, saying Khazanah had not guaranteed enough financial support. According to Dutch press reports, Khazanah refused to pay 10 million guilders ($5.1 million) in start-up costs. Stork, as the owner of Fokker Aviation, was an unwilling partner in a possible restart. Last July, Stork paid 302.5 million guilders for the holding company, formed from the Fokker's viable business units.

Mr. Wijers said that after Stork's withdrawal, Andre Deleye, chairman of Deleye Investment, tried to find another partner.

"But it has to be concluded that these efforts have not resulted in a clear signal from which concrete interest by another industry partner could appear," the minister said.

He said Deleye would continue to investigate Fokker's survival prospects until May 1, the closing date for the memorandum of understanding.

Mr. Wijers said the government was willing to support further initiatives in areas such as technology development, but without taking a direct stake in a new Fokker. He said he was informing the Malaysian government about the Dutch decision to cancel its commitment to a direct investment in relaunching Fokker.

"It is my firm conviction that this disappointing conclusion was primarily caused by the complexity, costs and risks of trying a relaunch more than a year after the bankruptcy and not by the attitude of any of the parties concerned," Mr. Wijers said.

Fokker's demise began in March 1996 when the Dutch government and Daimler-Benz AG, which held a substantial Fokker stake, failed to rescue the Netherlands' only aircraft maker from losses of more than 2.5 billion guilders.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

Safra's Profit Rises on Trade In Currencies

International Herald Tribune

LUXEMBOURG — Safra Republic Holdings SA said Wednesday that its net profit rose to $57.2 million in the first quarter from $44 million a year earlier, helped by a surge in income from foreign-exchange trading.

The international private banking holding company said income from foreign-exchange trading jumped to $17.7 million in the quarter from $9.8 million a year earlier, while net interest income rose 15 percent, to $72.7 million. Safra raised its provision for credit losses to $131.4 million from $129.5 million a year earlier.

Safra is a holding company for six banks operating in Switzerland, Luxembourg, Monaco, France, Guernsey and Gibraltar.

The company plans a 2-for-1 stock split May 31 and an increase in the annual dividend on a pre-split basis to $4.50 a common share from $3.50. The dividend will be payable as of May 31.

EU Opens Purse to Industry

Antitrust Official Says Aid Imperils Single Market

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — European governments desperate to save jobs have opened up the flow of public aid to industry, a trend that is "worrying" for the health of the single market, Europe's top antitrust regulator said Wednesday.

The European Union's competition commissioner, Karel van Miert, will propose several measures to tighten rules on state aid when he meets EU industry ministers in Luxembourg next week, the European Commission said.

In particular, Mr. van Miert wants to clamp down on the growing number of large instances of state aid, many of them destined for corporate failures such as the bankrupt German shipyard Bremer Vulkan or the deeply indebted French banking company Credit Lyonnais, saying he fears such aid efforts are a risk to fair competition in Europe.

"The large sums granted in state aid threaten to jeopardize the completion of the single market, and indeed the achievement of economic and monetary union," the commission, the EU's executive agency, said in a statement.

But as if to underline the uphill nature of the battle, the commission also gave a green light Wednesday to two big aid payments: 1 billion francs ($172 million) for Air France, the last portion of a 20 billion-franc bailout agreed to in 1995, and 40 billion escudos ($231 million) for the Portuguese airline TAP, the final installment of a 180 billion-escudo package.

Those payments only completed previously agreed-upon bailouts, but the coincidence of their timing graphically illustrated the underlying problem.

From 1992 to 1994, the latest period for which figures are available, the 12 countries who were EU members then doled out an average of 42.6 billion European currency units ($48.3 billion) a year in aid to the manufacturing industry, the commission said.

The amount, up from an average of 41.6 billion Ecus a year in 1990-92, represented a reversal of the steady decline in such aid that had prevailed since the commission began compiling figures in the mid-1980s.

Germany doled out an average of 17.4 billion Ecus a year in aid in the latest period, up from 14 billion Ecus in the previous period. Most of the money went to the states of the former East Germany, where aid rose to 13.3 billion Ecus a year in 1992-94 from 6.6 billion Ecus in 1990-92. Aid to West German companies fell sharply, to 4.2 billion Ecus from 7.4 billion Ecus.

Italy occupied second place in the aid standings, although its outlays fell to 11.5 billion Ecus a year in the latest period from 12.3 billion Ecus in the previous one. France was third, with aid rising to 6.0 billion Ecus from 5.3 billion Ecus.

Discount Seen for France Telecom

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — France Telecom SA's shares will be priced at a discount to other European telecommunications companies when stock in the company is sold next month in France's biggest ever initial public offering, analysts said Wednesday.

The sale of a minority stake will value the company at about 180 billion French francs ($30.88 billion), or 12.5 times 1996 earnings from operations, analysts said. That compares with an average 1996 price-to-earnings ratio of 19.4 percent for other European phone companies.

The discount reflects concern that company's profit growth will be limited by labor laws, which make it difficult for companies based in France to cut staff. It also takes into account investor concern about the treatment of minority shareholders in other state-controlled companies.

Also, Paris will want the shares to rise after they are listed in New York and Paris on June 9 to encourage investors to subscribe to future sales of state-owned companies.

Paris plans to raise 30 billion to 50 billion francs from the stock sale, indicating it will sell 15 percent to 30 percent of the company. Investors can subscribe to the initial public offering from May 27 to June 3. *(Bloomberg, Reuters)*

New Loss Pummels Olivetti's Shares

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MILAN — Olivetti SpA shares fell 5.5 percent Wednesday after the office-equipment company announced a greater-than-expected loss and said it planned a write-down on its capital, which would cut its number of issued shares.

Late Tuesday, the company announced a loss of 915 billion lire ($538.2 million) for 1996, its sixth consecutive annual loss, as sales fell 15 percent, to 8.304 trillion lire.

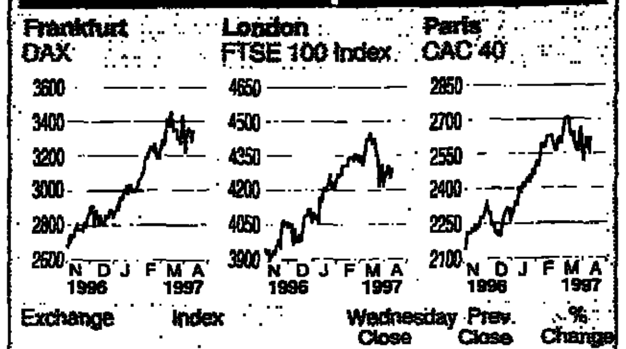
The company also said that it had registered a loss of 180 billion lire in the first quarter of this year as revenue fell 10.4 percent, to 1.38 trillion lire.

A shareholders' meeting will be called to vote on the company's proposal to reduce the nominal value of its shares to 640 lire from 1,000 lire.

The company's shares fell 30 lire Wednesday to close at 520.

Olivetti is controlled by the Italian financier Carlo De Benedetti, who resigned as chairman in September in a management shake-up. *(Bloomberg, AP)*

Investor's Europe



Exchange	Index	Wednesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	AEX	729.58	736.37	-0.92
Brussels	BEL-20	2,133.60	2,129.51	+0.19
Frankfurt	DAX	3,353.45	3,327.68	+0.77
Copenhagen	Stock Market	529.38	529.40	-0.01
Helsinki	HEX General	2,787.16	2,794.80	-0.27
Oslo	OBX	594.93	595.41	-0.08
London	FTSE 100	4,294.60	4,288.60	+0.14
Madrid	Stock Exchange	487.29	481.77	+1.15
Milan	MIBTEL	12,372.00	12,320.00	+0.42
Paris	CAC 40	2,620.97	2,620.63	+0.01
Stockholm	SX 16	2,850.65	2,854.14	-0.12
Vienna	ATX	1,170.95	1,166.77	+0.36
Zurich	SPI	2,927.32	2,935.72	-0.29

Source: Telekurs — International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- **Deutsche Morgan Grenfell**, a British unit of **Deutsche Bank AG**, was ordered by regulators to pay a fine of £2 million ($3.3 million) in connection with the investment scandal last year caused by the actions of one of its fund managers, Peter Young.
- **Daimler-Benz AG's** first-quarter sales rose 12 percent, to 25.9 billion Deutsche marks ($14.94 billion), and the company said it expected 1997 operating profit to surpass the 2.4 billion DM posted last year. The company also said it would sell as much as 1.1 billion DM of convertible bonds.
- **Schneider Rundfunkwerke AG** is set to market what it calls the first commercially available system to user lasers to project high-definition television for commercial use. Mass production of the system, developed in a joint venture with **Daimler-Benz AG**, will begin next year, the company said.
- **Reuters Holdings PLC's** first-quarter sales fell 2 percent, to £699 million, and the company warned that first-half pretax profit would be flat if the pound's strength continued.
- **Den norske Bank A/S**, Norway's biggest bank, raised its bid for the regional bank **Bolig- og Naeringsbanken A/S** to 2.04 billion kroner ($291.1 million) from 2.02 billion kroner.
- **Philip Morris Cos.** wants to invest $300 million over the next three to four years in Russia; the plans include a new factory in St. Petersburg. Philip Morris has already invested $70 million in a factory in Krasnodar in southern Russia and $50 million in St. Petersburg. *Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters*

Correction

Due to a programming error, the year-to-date figures used in the Trib Index have been calculated on a January, 1996, base rather than January, 1997. Beginning Thursday, the calculations have been corrected. We regret and apologize for the error.

The Trib Index

Prices as of 3:00 P.M. New York time.

Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.	Level	Change	% change	year to date % change
World Index	151.70	+1.15	+0.76	+15.04
Regional Indexes				
Asia/Pacific	110.77	-0.19	-0.17	-17.50
Europe	160.79	+2.26	+1.43	+15.53
N. America	175.96	+1.42	+0.81	+37.17
S. America	138.61	-0.90	-0.65	+55.67
Industrial Indexes				
Capital goods	175.76	+2.94	+1.70	+32.27
Consumer goods	170.28	+1.06	+0.63	+23.33
Energy	183.06	+2.94	+1.63	+34.98
Finance	112.93	+0.31	+0.28	-11.24
Miscellaneous	156.63	+1.06	+0.68	+15.33
Raw Materials	182.19	+1.28	+0.71	+28.48
Service	142.74	+0.81	+0.57	+18.95
Utilities	132.97	-0.42	-0.31	+4.59

The International Herald Tribune World Stock Index © tracks the U.S. dollar values of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries. For more information, a free booklet is available by writing to The Trib Index, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly Cedex, France. Compiled by Bloomberg News.

Market Closed

The Bombay stock market was closed Thursday for a holiday.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Wednesday, April 16
Prices in local currencies.
Telekurs

Amsterdam
AEX index: 729.58 — Previous: 736.37

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABN-AMRO	128.40	125.20	126.60	126.10
Aegon	135	131.50	131.80	134.40
Ahold	137.90	132.70	133.40	137
Akzo Nobel	265.20	262.60	263	265.20
Baan Co.	90.60	86.90	89.30	87.40
Bols Wess cva	36.80	35.70	35.80	36.90
CSM cva	111.30	109	109.80	110.60
Dordtsche Pet	358.30	353	353	355
DSM	190.30	185	185	189
Elsevier	30.70	29.80	30.10	30.50
Fortis Amev	70.50	68.50	69.20	69.50
Getronics	60.40	59.20	59.70	60
G-Broc cva	63.40	62.30	62.80	63.30
Hagemeyer	161.40	158.60	158.60	160.50
Heineken	322.40	315.50	317	321.90
Hoogovens cva	88.10	86.10	86.40	87
Hunt Douglas	152.50	150.30	151.30	152.40
ING Group	74	71.70	72.40	73.40
KLM	56.10	55.50	55.80	55.60
KNP BT	39.50	38.50	38.70	39.40
KPN	69.50	68.50	68.50	69.20
Nedlloyd Gp	46.60	45.10	45.10	46.40
Nutricia	288	283.50	284.50	286.50
Oce Grinten	237.60	223.50	227.80	239.30
Philips Elec	89.30	87.60	88.50	88.90
Polygram	95.10	94.10	95.10	94.80
Randstad Hdg	168	161.60	165.50	161.40
Robeco	160.30	159	159	158.50
Rodamco	59.90	59.60	59.90	59.70
Rolinco	163.40	163.40	163.40	162.30
Rorento	108.90	108.70	108.70	108.90
Royal Dutch	334.90	330	330.70	332.20
Unilever cva	360	355.30	356	355.50
Vendex Intl	94.30	91.80	92	92.90
VNU	40.10	38.10	38.10	39.40
Wolters Kl cva	231.70	227.50	228.30	227.50

Bangkok
SET index: 716.89 — Previous: 713.62

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adv Info Svc	232	230	230	230
Bangkok Bk F	284	278	280	282
Krung Thai Bk	37.25	36.50	36.50	37
PTT Explor	326	322	324	322
Siam Cement F	708	684	704	724
Siam Com Bk F	171	167	169	169
Telecomasia	48.25	46.75	47.75	46.75
Thai Airways	44.50	43.75	44.25	45
Thai Farm Bk F	185	178	182	184
Utd Comm	180	172	178	172

Brussels
BEL-20 index: 2133.60 — Previous: 2129.51

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Almanij	13800	13525	13525	13800
Barco Ind	5910	5860	5890	5890
BBL	7880	7800	7870	7800
CBR	3390	3360	3360	3360
Colruyt	14250	13925	14150	14250
Delhaize Lion	1790	1745	1745	1765
Electrabel	7870	7840	7850	7860
Electrafina	3530	3455	3500	3465
Fortis AG	5900	5830	5840	5860
Gevaert	2600	2560	2600	2540
GBL	5120	5070	5100	5060
Gen Banque	13450	13300	13325	13325
Kredietbank	12775	12675	12725	12750
Petrofina	12875	12600	12775	12550
Powerfin	4910	4860	4880	4870
Royale Belge	9290	9140	9190	9100
Soc Gen Belg	3040	3005	3005	3040
Solvay	20400	20200	20275	20250
Tractebel	14850	14800	14825	14800
UCB	91750	90550	91750	89850

Copenhagen
Stock Index: 529.38 — Previous: 529.40

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
BG Bank	293	287	290	291
Carlsberg B	380.48	376	377	374
Codan Fors	880	850	880	880
Danisco	394	383	383	389
Den Danske Bk	548	537	536	542
D/S Svendborg B	283000	280000	283000	279643
D/S 1912 B	198000	194000	194000	194000
FLS Ind B	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	895
Kob Lufthavne	645	634	645	645
Novo Nordisk B	668	653	653	655
Sophus Ber B	800	790	790	793
Tele Danmk B	340	334	340	338
Tryg Baltica	340	333	335	340
Unidanmark A	335	326	329	330.45

Frankfurt
DAX: 3353.45 — Previous: 3327.68

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AMB B	1390	1300	1300	1390
Adidas	187.20	185.50	186	186
Allianz Hdg	3179	3140	3164	3162
Altana	1335	1306	1306	1320
Bk Berlin	34.55	34.30	34.30	34.10
BASF	67.38	66.75	66.93	65.82
Bayer Hypo Bk	53.80	52.85	53	53.52
Bay Vereinsbank	66.60	65.70	66.60	65.80
Bayer	68.55	67.90	68.30	67.30
Beiersdorf	92.80	92	92	91.80
Bewag	44	43.30	43.50	44
BMW	1432	1417	1417	1416
CKAG Colonia	162.50	160	162.50	160
Commerzbank	46.05	45.60	45.70	45.65
Daimler Benz	139.30	137.60	138.15	136.90
Degussa	788	770	774.50	741
Deutsche Bank	88.95	88.70	88.88	88.10
Deut Telekom	36.40	36.22	36.40	36.10
Dresdner Bank	56.85	55.85	55.85	55.95
Fresenius	390	382	387	379
Fresenius Med	161	157.50	157.50	159.90
Fried. Krupp	329	322.15	327	319.50
Gehe	114.90	112.50	112.50	114.50
Heidelbg Zmt	142	141	141	140.50
Henkel pfd	91.90	90.30	90.30	90.50
HEW	492	492	492	492
Hochtief	69.80	69.10	69.50	70.10
Hoechst	66.45	65.70	66	64.97
Karstadt	517	508	509	505.50
Linde	1178	1152	1156	1160
Lufthansa	22.60	22.45	22.58	22.35
MAN	505	497	500	504.30
Mannesmann	656.50	651	653.80	645
Metallgesellschaft	36.65	36.20	36.40	36.43
Metro	161.50	159	161	156.70
Munich Rueck R	3970	3920	3950	3912
Preussag	450.50	446.50	449	443
Rheinelektra	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	1240
RWE	66.95	66	66.27	65.47
SAP pfd	286.30	283.70	284.80	286.20
Schering	169	166.25	167.80	163.90
SGL Carbon	249	245	246.90	243.40
Siemens	87.05	86.70	87.02	86.50
Springer (Axel)	1385	1385	1385	1385
Suedzucker	814	814	810	812
Thyssen	398	384	388.80	384
Veba	92.30	91.90	92	91.55
VEW	503	501	502.50	498
Viag	764	757	759	759.80
Volkswagen	1062	1038	1045.50	1039

Helsinki
HEX General Index: 2787.16 — Previous: 2794.80

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Enso A	42	41.10	41.10	41
Huhtamaki I	235	233	234	232
Kemira	54.50	53	53.10	53.30
Kesko	71	70.20	70.50	70.50
Merita A	16.40	15.70	15.70	16.20
Metra B	143	139	141	137.50
Metso-Serla B	37	36	36	35.80
Neste	123	121	122	121
Nokia A	295	290.10	294	297
Orion-Yhtymae	195	192	192.90	194
Outokumpu A	91	89	89	90.50
UPM-Kymmene	110.70	109.20	110	109
Valmet	89	87.50	87.50	88.70

Hong Kong
Hang Seng: 12981.31 — Previous: 12942.82

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amoy Props	7.70	7.55	7.65	7.50
Bk East Asia	26.40	26.30	26.35	25.95
Cathay Pacific	12.05	11.95	11.95	12
Cheung Kong	66.75	66	66.50	64.50
CK Infrastruct	22.25	21.75	22.10	21.75
China Light	35.20	34.70	34.90	34.80
Citic Pacific	40	39.10	39.30	38.80
Dao Heng Bk	36.70	35.20	36.30	35
First Pacific	10.10	9.90	10	9.90
Hang Lung Dev	14.35	14.10	14.15	14.05
Hang Seng Bk	84	82.25	83.75	81.25
Henderson Inv	7.90	7.75	7.90	7.45
Henderson Ld	65.25	63.50	65	63
HK China Gas	12.60	12.40	12.50	12.30
HK Electric	27.70	27.35	27.35	27.45
HK Telecomm	13.75	13.60	13.65	13.55
Hopewell Hdgs	4.03	3.98	4	3.98
HSBC Hdgs	187.50	184.50	186.50	182.50
Hutchison Wh	57.75	56.50	57	55.50
Hysan Dev	22.60	22.20	22.20	22.05
Johnson El Hdg	19.45	19.30	19.40	19.30
Kerry Props	17.60	17.40	17.50	17.45
New World Dev	40.20	39.30	39.60	38.80
Oriental Press	3.10	2.95	3.10	2.93
Pearl Oriental	3.10	2.95	3	5.80
SHK Props	78.25	77	78.25	76
Shun Tak Hdgs	4.95	4.93	4.93	4.85
Sino Land Co.	7.20	7.05	7.10	7.05
Sth China Post	6.85	6.75	6.80	6.75
Swire Pac A	60.75	59.50	59.75	59.50
Wharf Hdgs	31	30.40	30.40	30.10
Wheelock	16.60	16.10	16.20	16

Jakarta
Composite index: 632.82 — Previous: 631.27

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Astra Intl	5850	5800	5850	5775
Bk Intl Indon	1750	1700	1725	1675
Bk Negara	1400	1325	1400	1325
Gudang Garm	9975	9725	9725	9825
Indocement	3300	3200	3200	3200
Indofood	4800	4700	4800	5000
Indosat	6700	6675	6675	6650
Sampoerna HM	9500	9250	9250	9375
Semen Gresik	5900	5800	5800	5875
Telekomunikasi	3625	3600	3625	3600

Johannesburg
All Market: 6976.84 — Previous: 6997.34

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amalgamated Bks	29.50	29.25	29.25	29.30
AngloAm Coal	281.50	280	281.50	280
AngloAm Corp	278	277	277.50	277.50
AngloAm Gold	305.50	302	302	304
AngloAm Ind	180	179.75	180	179.25
AVMIN	17.75	17.40	17.40	17.80
Barlow	49.35	48.95	49	49
C.G. Smith	25.75	25.20	25.40	25.50
De Beers	165.50	164.25	165	165.50
Driefontein	41.50	40.75	41.25	41.35
Fst Natl Bk	29.50	28.80	28.80	29
Gencor	18.95	18.45	18.45	19
GFSA	108	107.25	108	107.50
Imperial Hdgs	56	55.50	55.50	55.50
Ingwe Coal	28	28	28	28
Iscor	3.36	3.14	3.18	3.30
Johnnies Indl	59	58.25	58.25	59
Liberty Hdgs	329	320	328	326
Liberty Life	120	117.50	118	118.75
LibLife Strat	15.40	14.90	15	15.40
Minorco	100	99.25	99.25	99.50
Nampak	19	18.20	18.20	19
Nedcor	85.50	85	85.25	84.75
Rembrandt Gp	45.50	44.60	45.50	44.50
Richemont	59.75	58.75	59.75	58.50
Rust Platinum	70.50	69	69.50	71.25
SA Breweries	135	132	132	134.25
Samancor	52	52	52	53
Sasol	53.50	52.75	53	53.25
SBIC	190	187.75	190	187
Tiger Oats	77.75	77.50	77.75	77.75

Kuala Lumpur
Composite: 1087.78 — Previous: 1086.67

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AMMB Hdgs	18	17.40	17.60	17.80
Genting	14.90	14	14.40	14.60
Mal Banking	26.75	26.25	26.75	26.25
Mal Intl Ship F	5.85	5.60	5.75	6.25
Petronas Gas	8.45	7.75	8	8.40
Proton	15.10	14.90	15.10	15.10
Public Bk	4.54	4.42	4.46	4.48
Renong	3.74	3.56	3.70	3.54
Resorts World	9.55	8.95	9.20	9.40
Rothmans PM	23	22.70	22.70	22.90
Sime Darby	8.85	7.80	7.90	7.95
Telekom Mal	17.70	17.10	17.30	17.10
Tenaga	11.90	11.50	11.50	11.70
Utd Engineers	19.40	18.90	19.30	18.90
YTL	10.60	10	10.10	10.30

London
FT-SE 100: 4294.60 — Previous: 4288.60

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abbey Natl	7.95	7.85	7.91	7.90
Allied Domecq	4.40	4.33	4.36	4.35
Anglian Water	6.67	6.57	6.57	6.62
Argos	6.48	6.40	6.42	6.42
Asda Group	1.13	1.11	1.12	1.12
Assoc Br Foods	5.15	5.10	5.12	5.13
BAA	5.30	5.18	5.29	5.18
Barclays	10.31	10.10	10.16	10.22
Bass	7.97	7.86	7.93	7.99
BAT Ind	5.42	5.10	5.41	5.13
Bank Scotland	3.24	3.17	3.19	3.20
Blue Circle	4.09	4.02	4.09	4.02
BOC Group	9.15	9.03	9.11	9.02
Boots	6.98	6.84	6.86	6.85
BPB Ind	3.20	3.13	3.18	3.18
Brit Aerosp	13.50	13.31	13.43	13.29
Brit Airways	6.82	6.66	6.81	6.65
BG	1.92	1.84	1.88	1.86
Brit Land	5.50	5.38	5.41	5.45
Brit Petm	6.96	6.83	6.86	6.95
BSkyB	5.92	5.73	5.85	5.87
Brit Steel	1.48	1.45	1.47	1.47
Brit Telecom	4.46	4.39	4.43	4.41
BTR	2.59	2.49	2.55	2.53
Burmah Castrol	10.05	9.97	10.01	9.94
Burton Gp	1.49	1.46	1.47	1.49
Cable Wireless	4.87	4.78	4.82	4.83
Cadbury Schw	5.42	5.21	5.27	5.28
Carlton Comm	5.15	4.97	5.07	4.99
Coml Union	6.52	6.40	6.44	6.51
Compass Gp	6.77	6.70	6.70	6.77
Courtaulds	3.40	3.36	3.37	3.40
Dixons	5.17	5.12	5.14	5.15
Electrocomponents	4.03	3.97	4	3.94
EMI Group	12.08	11.85	11.90	11.72
Energy Group	5.10	4.95	5	5.01
Enterprise Oil	6.17	6.07	6.16	6.11
Fam Colonial	1.52	1.50	1.51	1.51
Genl Accident	8.06	7.98	8.01	8.09
GEC	3.72	3.66	3.68	3.68
GKN	9.67	9.54	9.55	9.64
Glaxo Wellcome	11.50	11.05	11.22	11.17
Granada Gp	8.89	8.73	8.86	8.68
Grand Met	5	4.88	4.95	4.92
GRE	2.78	2.73	2.76	2.72
Greenalls Gp	5.22	5.17	5.17	5.19
Guinness	5.06	4.92	5.05	4.96
GUS	6.59	6.46	6.49	6.45
Hays	5.24	5.10	5.22	5.23
HSBC Hldgs	15.04	14.80	14.91	14.70
ICI	7.10	7	7.04	7.04
Impl Tobacco	4.17	4.09	4.15	4.11
Kingfisher	6.72	6.54	6.57	6.45
Ladbroke	2.35	2.32	2.35	2.34
Land Sec	7.87	7.76	7.80	7.82
Lasmo	2.35	2.26	2.30	2.25
Legal Genl Grp	3.94	3.71	3.82	3.94
Lloyds TSB Gp	5.17	5.09	5.14	5.07
Lucas Varity	2	1.91	1.97	1.98
Marks Spencer	4.96	4.93	4.94	4.95
MEPC	4.68	4.56	4.61	4.67
Mercury Asset	12.79	12.45	12.69	12.47
National Grid	2.24	2.17	2.18	2.21
Natl Power	5.46	5.37	5.38	5.41
NatWest	6.87	6.74	6.76	6.84
Next	6.29	6.15	6.28	6.18
Orange	2.19	2.12	2.14	2.14
P&O	6.41	6.11	6.13	6.12
Pearson	7.35	7.23	7.26	7.27
Pilkington	1.23	1.19	1.19	1.21
PowerGen	6.46	6.39	6.42	6.37
Premier Farnell	4.99	4.90	4.96	4.90
Prudential	5.74	5.66	5.68	5.66
Railtrack PP	4.65	4.43	4.52	4.50
Rank Group	4.37	4.26	4.33	4.26
Reckitt Coln	8.04	7.93	7.95	8.02
Redland	3.48	3.40	3.41	3.58
Reed Intl	11.12	10.92	11.02	10.85
Rentokil Initial	4.04	3.99	4.02	4
Reuters Hdgs	5.97	5.78	5.89	5.87
Rexam	3.26	3.19	3.22	3.22
RMC Group	9.75	9.57	9.61	9.67
Rolls Royce	2.50	2.45	2.47	2.43
Royal Bk Scot	5.36	5.30	5.31	5.31
RTZ reg	9.65	9.46	9.54	9.47
Royal & Sun All	4.44	4.36	4.39	4.36
Safeway	3.48	3.44	3.46	3.45
Sainsbury	3.30	3.24	3.26	3.26
Schroders	15.35	15.20	15.25	15.17
Scot Newcastle	6.57	6.50	6.55	6.50
Scot Power	3.85	3.75	3.79	3.81
Securicor	2.88	2.80	2.84	2.85
Severn Trent	7.45	7.38	7.44	7.42
Shell Transp R	10.70	10.29	10.33	10.29
Siebe	9.48	9.40	9.46	9.43
Smith Nephew	1.84	1.80	1.80	1.82
SmithKline	9.22	9.09	9.21	9.09
Smiths Ind	7.85	7.72	7.73	7.83
Sthern Elec	4.47	4.33	4.45	4.37
Stagecoach	6.25	6.12	6.18	6.18
Stand Charter	8.52	8.44	8.47	8.47
Tate & Lyle	4.50	4.41	4.47	4.41
Tesco	3.55	3.26	3.53	3.54
Thames Water	6.89	6.70	6.75	6.84
3i Group	5.08	4.99	5.01	5.02
TI Group	5.90	5.38	5.48	5.46
Tomkins	2.72	2.65	2.67	2.68
Unilever	15.85	15.63	15.83	15.45
Utd Assurance	4.69	4.55	4.69	4.55
Utd News	7.23	7.17	7.20	7.23
Utd Utilities	6.85	6.70	6.77	6.75
Vendome Lx uts	5.17	5.13	5.13	5.17
Vodafone	2.73	2.65	2.67	2.71
Whitbread	7.76	7.68	7.70	7.72
Williams Hdgs	3.28	3.12	3.14	3.14
Wolseley	4.87	4.81	4.86	4.81
WPP Group	2.52	2.48	2.51	2.50
Zeneca	18.07	17.80	17.90	17.91

Madrid
Bolsa index: 487.29 — Previous: 481.77

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Acerinox	21400	20900	21400	21000
ACESA	1680	1650	1665	1670
Aguas Barcelon	5540	5460	5500	5500
Argentaria	6370	6310	6350	6330
BBV	8910	8700	8910	8740
Banesto	1125	1110	1115	1115
Bankinter	19800	19510	19600	19790
Bco Central Hisp	3935	3885	3915	3915
Bco Exterior	2780	2780	2780	2780
Bco Popular	27050	26820	27040	26760
Bco Santander	9900	9770	9900	9880
CEPSA	4410	4310	4350	4405
Continente	2560	2510	2530	2565
Corp Mapfre	7230	7120	7180	7130
Endesa	9500	9290	9300	9400
FECSA	1235	1210	1220	1240
Gas Natural	31990	31350	31610	31950
Iberdrola	1665	1630	1650	1650
Pryca	2590	2535	2545	2560
Repsol	6240	6160	6180	6190
Sevillana Elec	1290	1275	1290	1290
Tabacalera	7150	7040	7110	7070
Telefonica	3545	3485	3515	3505
Union Fenosa	1205	1180	1200	1195
Valenc Cement	1740	1710	1740	1740

Manila
PSE index: 2960.97 — Previous: 2949.46

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ayala B	24.50	24.25	24.25	24.25
Ayala Land	26	25.50	26	25.50
Bk Philip Isl	166	163	164	161
C&P Homes	11	10.75	10.75	10.75
Manila Elec A	121	120	121	121
Metro Bank	650	645	645	650
Petron	9.70	9.60	9.60	9.70
PCIBank	342.50	340	340	340
Phil Long Dist	1570	1555	1555	1560
San Miguel B	85.50	83	85.50	82
SM Prime Hdg	7.50	7.40	7.40	7.40

Mexico
Bolsa index: 3862.65 — Previous: 3885.10

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alfa A	46.05	45.45	45.90	45.60
Banacci B	17.82	17.64	17.78	17.64
Cemex CPO	27.60	27.15	27.25	27.20
Cifra C	11.50	11.38	11.46	11.38
Emp Modema	39.35	38.85	39.35	38.85
Gpo Carso A1	50.00	49.50	49.60	49.60
Gpo F Bcomer	1.78	1.76	1.78	1.75
Gpo Fin Inbursa	28.90	28.50	28.55	28.20
Kimb Clark Mex	30.80	29.90	30.10	30.15
Televisa CPO	104.00	103.00	103.50	102.10
TelMex L	16.80	16.16	16.80	16.28

Milan
MIB Telematico: 12372.00 — Previous: 12320.00

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alleanza Assic	12560	12275	12400	12420
Bca Comm Ital	3650	3530	3585	3670
Bca Fideuram	4565	4460	4500	4490
Bca di Roma	1282	1250	1267	1260
Benetton	22300	21700	21750	21750
Credito Italiano	2395	2365	2375	2395
Edison	9190	8975	9010	9010
ENI	8850	8770	8840	8735
Fiat	5880	5740	5850	5850
Generali Assic	31080	30350	30750	30580
IMI	15245	14980	15000	15020
INA	2345	2310	2320	2315
Italgas	6135	5945	5965	6110
Mediaset	7200	7050	7075	7130
Mediobanca	10980	10725	10805	11055
Montedison	1172	1155	1158	1171
Olivetti	535	480	520	550
Parmalat	2630	2540	2545	2595
Pirelli	3880	3815	3840	3825
RAS	15350	14975	15135	15100
Rolo Banca	17200	16980	17010	16655
S Paolo Torino	11900	11675	11805	11505
Stet	7960	7860	7880	7910
Telecom Italia	4515	4430	4455	4420
TIM	5090	4960	5090	4910

Montreal
Industrials Index: 2794.95 — Previous: 2792.22

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bce Mob Com	42.30	42	42	42
Cdn Tire A	24.55	24.55	24.55	24.80
Cdn Util A	31.40	30.80	31.40	30.85
CT Finl Svc	32¼	32¼	32¼	32¼
Gaz Metro	16.90	16¼	16.90	16.80
Gt-West Lifeco	23	22.80	22.80	23.15
Imasco	35.40	34.85	35.35	34.80
Investors Grp	24⅛	24.20	24¼	24
Loblaw Cos	17.15	16.90	17	17.20
Natl Bk Canada	14.95	14.60	14.90	14¼
Power Corp	27¾	27½	27.60	27½
Power Finl	25	24.60	24.85	24½
Quebecor B	24⅝	24.10	24.10	24.45
Rogers Comm B	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.35
Royal Bk Cda	52¼	51.40	52¼	51.85

Oslo
OBX Index: 594.93 — Previous: 595.41

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Aker A	172	169	169	169
Bergesen Dy A	144	142	142	143
Christiania Bk	27.20	23.80	23.90	24
Den norske Bk	27.40	26.90	27.10	27
Elkem	128.50	125.50	127	127
Hafslund A	46	45.50	45.50	46.20
Kvaerner Asa	338	335	337	336
Norsk Hydro	330	326.50	329	329
Norske Skog A	236	225.50	235	232
Nycomed A	106	103.50	106	104.50
Orkla Asa A	569	560	565	560
Petm GeoSvc	283	279	283	286
Saga Petm A	121	117	117	120
Schibsted	128	125	127	129
Transocean Off	430	425	430	430
Storebrand Asa	45.30	44.80	45.10	45

Paris
CAC-40: 2620.97 — Previous: 2620.63

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Accor	893	882	889	883
AGF	200.20	195	199.40	199.90
Air Liquide	905	875	883	899
Alcatel Alsth	679	670	679	673
Axa-UAP	359.90	354.70	359.10	358.60
Bancaire	802	773	779	773
BIC	889	867	868	846
BNP	242.20	237.70	240.60	238.80
Canal Plus	1134	1106	1130	1136
Carrefour	3609	3531	3609	3550
Casino	259.90	256.50	258.80	257.50
CCF	265.50	252	255	257.50
Cetelem	684	658	684	656
Christian Dior	856	845	853	846
CLF-Dexia Fran	582	564	564	576
Credit Agricole	1266	1255	1255	1255
Danone	904	892	900	899
Elf-Aquitaine	557	547	555	549
Eridania BS	889	856	856	886
Eurodisney	10.05	10	10.05	10.05
Eurotunnel	6.65	6.45	6.65	6.55
Gen. Eaux	783	771	775	770
Havas	427.50	418	425.40	426
Imetal	814	796	800	807
Lafarge	377.90	372	375	375.30
Legrand	1020	1002	1010	1009
L'Oreal	2028	1983	1998	1983
LVMH	1358	1325	1341	1347
Lyon. Eaux	538	525	529	534
Michelin B	335	328.10	330.90	331
Paribas A	371	363.40	366	367
Pernod Ricard	314.50	305.40	307.20	314.50
Peugeot Cit	639	627	639	629
Pinault-Print	2460	2425	2435	2434
Promodes	1992	1976	1982	1978
Renault	143.50	137.60	140.40	143.40
Rexel	1675	1611	1647	1655
Rh-Poulenc A	185.40	182	183.60	181.50
Sanofi	553	542	547	550
Schneider	332.70	324.20	327	330.40
SEB	1026	1005	1010	1023
SGS Thomson	396	383.10	394	404
Ste Generale	659	642	646	653
Sodexho	2809	2775	2800	2765
St Gobain	790	775	783	786
Suez	287	280.20	283	286
Synthelabo	693	675	690	690
Thomson CSF	191	189	189.20	192.40
Total B	471.40	463	465.30	469.90
Usinor	91.30	89.80	90.80	90.45
Valeo	368	361.10	363	366.90

São Paulo
Bovespa index: 9525.25 — Previous: 9490.16

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bradesco Pfd	8.95	8.75	8.95	8.80
Brahma Pfd	712.01	710.00	711.00	712.00
Cemig Pfd	47.10	46.80	46.80	47.00
CESP Pfd	57.00	55.80	57.00	55.80
Copel	15.90	15.70	15.80	15.750
Eletrobras	455.00	452.00	452.00	452.00
Itaubanco Pfd	601.00	595.00	596.00	596.00
Light Servicios	446.40	442.00	446.00	442.00
Lightpar	322.00	322.00	322.00	322.00
Petrobras Pfd	209.00	207.01	208.00	209.00
Paulista Luz	162.57	161.30	162.50	159.01
Sid Nacional	38.00	37.490	37.80	37.50
Souza Cruz	8.65	8.60	8.60	8.65
Telebras Pfd	118.80	116.30	118.40	117.50
Telemig	162.00	160.50	162.00	161.00
Telesp	176.00	173.00	175.00	176.00
Telesp Pfd	305.00	295.00	301.00	297.00
Unibanco	38.50	37.10	37.10	37.70
Usiminas Pfd	1.16	1.15	1.15	1.16
CVRD Pfd	26.60	26.00	26.35	25.90

Seoul
Composite index: 782.42 — Previous: 781.39

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Dacom	102000	101000	102000	101500
Daewoo Heavy	4670	4500	4570	4600
Hyundai Eng.	19300	18700	18700	19400
Kia Motors	16000	15500	15500	16200
Korea El Pwr	27600	27300	27600	27400
Korea Exch Bk	5730	5600	5700	5630
Korea Mob Tel	473000	464000	464000	468000
LG Semicon	30200	28700	28800	30400
Pohang Iron St	52300	51500	52000	52300
Samsung Display	42400	41500	42000	41500
Samsung Elec	62000	61000	61900	62500
Shinhan Bank	10700	10500	10600	10600

Singapore
Straits Times: 2040.19 — Previous: 2032.97

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Asia Pac Brew	7	7	7	7.05
Cerebos Pac	8.95	8.75	8.80	8.90
City Devts	12.70	12.20	12.50	12.90
Cycle Carriage	15.20	14.80	15.20	15
Dairy Farm Int*	0.71	0.70	0.71	0.70
DBS foreign	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	18.10
DBS Land	4.96	4.84	4.90	4.80
Fraser & Neave	11	10.70	10.90	10.70
HK Land*	2.32	2.25	2.25	2.26
Jard Matheson*	5.60	5.40	5.50	5.40
Jard Strategic*	3.46	3.46	3.46	3.48
Keppel	9.05	8.95	8.95	8.90
Keppel Bank	3.94	3.88	3.88	3.90
Keppel Fels	4.36	4.12	4.18	4.24
Keppel Land	4.26	4.14	4.14	4.18
OCBC foreign	17.80	17.40	17.50	17.90
OS Union Bk F	10.10	9.70	9.80	10.40
Parkway Hdgs	6.20	6.10	6.20	6.10
Sembawang	6.60	6.25	6.30	6.40
Sing Air foreign	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	11.50
Sing Land	7.05	6.85	6.85	7
Sing Press F	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	27
Sing Tech Ind	3.70	3.66	3.70	3.64
Sing Telecomm	2.80	2.77	2.79	2.77
Tat Lee Bank	3.40	3.38	3.40	3.36
Utd Industrial	1.15	1.13	1.14	1.13
Utd O'Sea Bk F	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	15.70
Wing Tai Hdgs	4.26	4.19	4.20	4.18

*: in U.S. dollars.

Stockholm
SX 16 index: 2850.65 — Previous: 2854.14

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AGA B	107	106	106.50	106.50
ABB A	874	860	871	858
AssiDoman	195	191.50	192	193.50
Astra A	355.50	349	350	352
Atlas Copco A	194	191	192.50	190
Autoliv	313	298.50	300	309
Electrolux B	485	473	481.50	474
Ericsson B	254.50	250.50	252.50	253.50
Hennes B	1080	1060	1064	1080
Incentive A	518	505	514	507
Investor B	348	343	344.50	343
MoDo B	218	212.50	213	213.50
Nordbanken	259.50	253	259.50	252
Pharm/Upjohn	272	269	271	273.50
Sandvik B	189.50	188	188	189
Scania B	189.50	187	188.50	188.50
SCA B	168	165.50	166.50	166
S-E Banken A	81.50	80	81	80.50
Skandia Fors	219	215	216.50	218
Skanska B	345	333	336	340
SKF B	172	165	166.50	175.50
Sparbanken A	139	135	138	138
Stadshypotek A	190	190	190	190
Stora A	98.50	96.50	97	97.50
Sv Handles A	224	220	223	222
Volvo B	198.50	195	197	198

Sydney
All Ordinaries: 2406.40 — Previous: 2381.70

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amcor	8.07	7.96	8.01	7.96
ANZ Bkng	7.93	7.81	7.87	7.72
BHP	16.93	16.78	16.82	16.60
Boral	3.73	3.70	3.72	3.65
Brambles Ind.	22.32	21.90	22.32	21.78
CBA	13.41	13.28	13.29	13.25
CC Amatil	14.20	14.05	14.15	14
Coles Myer	6.03	6	6.02	5.96
Comalco	6.25	6.14	6.18	6.15
CRA	18.80	18.65	18.70	18.53
CSR	4.62	4.57	4.59	4.58
Fosters Brew	2.59	2.55	2.59	2.55
Goodman Fld	1.71	1.68	1.70	1.66
ICI Australia	11.70	11.50	11.60	11.39
Lend Lease	24.25	23.80	24.20	23.45
MIM Hdgs	1.65	1.61	1.63	1.63
Nat Aust Bank	16.14	16.01	16.11	15.88
Nat Mutual Hdg	1.94	1.92	1.93	1.93
News Corp	6.02	5.91	5.94	5.83
Pacific Dunlop	3.19	3.13	3.18	3.16
Pioneer Intl	4.44	4.32	4.44	4.30
Pub Broadcast	6.68	6.60	6.64	6.55
St George Bank	7.84	7.72	7.72	7.70
WMC	7.74	7.54	7.64	7.66
Westpac Bking	6.74	6.68	6.71	6.62
Woodside Pet	9.90	9.67	9.87	9.60
Woolworths	3.85	3.71	3.82	3.70

Taipei
Stock Market index: 8614.78 — Previous: 8616.21

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Cathay Life Ins	166	163	163	163
Chang Hwa Bk	116.50	110	111.50	113
Chiao Tung Bk	76	74	74.50	75
China Develpmt	122	118	118.50	118
China Steel	31.50	30.70	30.70	31.30
First Bank	118.50	112	114	115
Formosa Plastic	71.50	69.50	70.50	70
Hua Nan Bk	106	102	103.50	103
Intl Comm Bk	75	73	73	73.50
Nan Ya Plastics	71.50	68.50	71.50	69
Shin Kong Life	104	101	102	101
Taiwan Semi	94.50	91	92.50	89
Tatung	56	55	55	55.50
Utd Micro Elec	72	70	70	69
Utd World Chin	73	71.50	72	71.50

Tokyo
Nikkei 225: 18031.20 — Previous: 17933.59

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ajinomoto	990	976	977	985
All Nippon Air	727	705	707	705
Amway	3450	3340	3450	3270
Asahi Bank	741	707	738	705
Asahi Chem	660	640	648	654
Asahi Glass	1100	1090	1100	1090
Bk Tokyo Mitsu	1910	1870	1900	1840
Bk Yokohama	500	490	500	498
Bridgestone	2590	2480	2520	2550
Canon	2940	2810	2830	2840
Chubu Elec	2050	2000	2040	2010
Chugoku Elec	2040	1970	2010	1970
Dai Nipp Print	2210	2190	2200	2180
Daiei	555	550	550	546
Dai-Ichi Kang	1270	1230	1250	1200
Daiwa Bank	387	375	380	374
Daiwa House	1400	1380	1380	1380
Daiwa Sec	734	716	729	716
DDI	8490a	8350a	8380a	8330a
Denso	2610	2570	2570	2580
East Japan Ry	5340a	5240a	5340a	5270a
Eisai	2220	2180	2220	2190
Fanuc	4320	4170	4290	4170
Fuji Bank	1390	1340	1360	1300
Fuji Photo	4310	4230	4300	4220
Fujitsu	1300	1280	1290	1290
Hachijuni Bk	1120	1080	1120	1080
Hitachi	1140	1110	1110	1120
Honda Motor	3770	3720	3730	3730
IBJ	1160	1120	1160	1110
IHI	470	461	467	464
Itochu	565	553	559	562
Ito-Yokado	5960	5800	5950	5820
JAL	462	455	455	455
Japan Tobacco	8200a	8120a	8180a	8060a
Jusco	3540	3460	3460	3490
Kajima	507	496	498	492
Kansai Elec	2170	2110	2170	2130
Kao	1340	1320	1330	1340
Kawasaki Hvy	499	492	499	498
Kawa Steel	364	360	364	361
Kinki Nipp Ry	717	708	710	717
Kirin Brewery	980	965	968	978
Kobe Steel	214	208	209	212
Komatsu	888	867	867	875
Kubota	545	534	542	530
Kyocera	7440	7380	7410	7380
Kyushu Elec	2000	1950	1990	1950
LTCB	364	348	357	345
Marubeni	461	452	455	457
Marui	1910	1840	1890	1860
Matsu Comm	3230	3180	3200	3200
Matsu Elec Ind	1990	1970	1980	1980
Matsu Elec Wk	1170	1140	1170	1140
Mitsubishi	1090	1070	1080	1070
Mitsubishi Ch	388	367	388	367
Mitsubishi El	710	690	690	706
Mitsubishi Est	1490	1470	1480	1460
Mitsubishi Hvy	812	797	804	799
Mitsubishi Mat	910	903	903	908
Mitsubishi Tr	1220	1170	1210	1150
Mitsui	928	919	924	922
Mitsui Fudosn	1360	1330	1350	1330
Mitsui Trust	634	590	623	565
Murata Mfg	4720	4660	4690	4600
NEC	1520	1490	1500	1500
Nikon	1800	1770	1770	1770
Nikko Sec	618	598	618	595
Nintendo	9250	9050	9160	9180
Nipp Express	820	809	812	814
Nippon Oil	535	526	532	534
Nippon Steel	366	359	365	359
Nissan Motor	741	728	737	730
NKK	260	251	255	257
Nomura Sec	1190	1150	1190	1120
NTT	8830a	8710a	8820a	8720a
NTT Data	3510b	3460b	3480b	3500b
Oji Paper	602	589	595	602
Osaka Gas	298	285	289	295
Ricoh	1490	1470	1470	1470
Rohm	9400	9390	9400	9390
Sakura Bk	660	630	644	620
Sankyo	3220	3150	3210	3210
Sanwa Bank	1270	1240	1260	1230
Sanyo Elec	454	443	446	447
Secom	7250	7200	7250	7200
Seibu Rwy	5730	5650	5720	5640
Sekisui Chem	1130	1100	1120	1090
Sekisui House	1110	1080	1100	1090
Seven-Eleven	7940	7900	7920	7900
Sharp	1520	1500	1510	1500
Shikoku El Pwr	1910	1880	1900	1900
Shimizu	534	513	522	506
Shin-etsu Ch	2480	2440	2470	2460
Shiseido	1610	1580	1610	1570
Shizuoka Bk	1100	1080	1100	1080
Softbank	7330	7210	7250	7250
Sony	9000	8910	8920	9010
Sumitomo	819	808	811	815
Sumitomo Bk	1360	1320	1320	1270
Sumit Chem	505	501	503	501
Sumitomo Elec	1720	1700	1720	1710
Sumit Metal	295	288	292	295
Sumit Trust	950	916	935	899
Taisho Pharm	3010	2970	2990	3000
Takeda Chem	2830	2790	2820	2820
TDK	8840	8650	8690	8790
Tohoku El Pwr	1960	1910	1960	1950
Tokai Bank	888	857	881	847
Tokio Marine	1210	1180	1200	1200
Tokyo El Pwr	2150	2110	2150	2140
Tokyo Electron	4590	4500	4500	4600
Tokyo Gas	296	289	296	296
Tokyu Corp.	630	615	616	623
Tonen	1190	1160	1190	1180
Toppan Print	1590	1540	1580	1540
Toray Ind	750	744	748	744
Toshiba	713	704	704	710
Tostem	2720	2650	2700	2690
Toyo Trust	704	650	703	633
Toyota Motor	3400	3360	3370	3370
Yamanouchi	2690	2620	2660	2610

a: x 100; b: x 1,000

Toronto
TSE Industrials: 5777.25 — Previous: 5743.55

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abitibi Price	20¾	20.10	20.70	20.20
Alberta Energy	28.90	28.40	28.80	28.40
Alcan Alum	45.70	44.40	45.60	44.70
Anderson Expl	16.15	15.85	16	16.10
Bk Montreal	48.45	47.30	48.40	47½
Bk Nova Scotia	51.40	49.90	51.35	50.15
Barrick Gold	31.85	31¼	31.80	31.60
BCE	64.30	63¼	64¼	63.70
BC Telecomm	29.30	29.10	29¼	29.30
Biochem Pharm	27.20	27.20	27.20	26.40
Bombardier B	26.40	26.20	26.40	26.35
Brascan A	30	29.45	30	29.30
Bre-X Minerals	2.23	2.03	2.08	2.23
Cameco	44.40	43	43.65	44.10
CIBC	31.90	31.05	31.90	31.35
Cdn Natl Rail	48.65	47½	48.60	47.45
Cdn Nat Res	33¼	31.40	32.55	31.15
Cdn Occid Pet	26.70	26	26.70	26
Cdn Pacific	33.85	32.90	33.70	32.95
Cominco	36.60	35.85	35.95	36.60
Dofasco	23.60	23.05	23.60	23¼
Domtar	10.65	10.30	10.60	10.30
Donohue A	24.95	24.85	24.95	24.95
Du Pont Cda A	30.60	30½	30.60	31½
Edper Group	23.30	22¾	23¼	22.90
EuroNev Mng	41.20	40½	41	40¾
Fairfax Finl	299½	298½	299	299
Falconbridge	28.40	27¾	28.35	27.90
Fletcher Chall A	21	20.65	21	20.60
Franco Nevada	67	66½	67	67¼
Gulf Cda Res	9.70	9.40	9.40	9.60
Imperial Oil	62.85	62.60	62¾	62.65
Inco	44.20	43.05	44.15	43.45
IPL Energy	40.10	39.40	40	39.40
Laidlaw B	18.35	17.95	18.35	18.10
Loewen Group	40.60	40.35	40.35	40½
Macmill Bldl	19	18.45	19	18.80
Magna Intl A	69.80	69½	69.60	69¾
Methanex	12¼	12.05	12.20	12.05
Moore	28.20	27.60	28.15	27.70
Newbridge Net	40¼	39.80	40.05	39.80
Noranda Inc	29.45	28.65	29.45	28.90
Norcen Energy	29	28.40	28.40	28½
Nthern Telecom	91.45	91	91.40	91.70
Nova	11.30	10.85	11¼	10.90
Onex	23.30	23.10	23¼	23.40
Pancdn Petlm	55.90	55.15	55.15	55.90
Petro Cda	20.70	19.90	20.65	20.05
Placer Dome	23.40	22.65	23.30	23.40
Poco Petlm	13¼	13.10	13¼	13.15
Potash Sask	105	103.40	104	104.15
Renaissance	40.45	39¾	40.45	40.10
Rio Algom	31.45	31.15	31.45	31.40
Rogers Cantel B	23½	23½	23½	23½
Seagram Co	51.80	50.90	51.65	51
Shell Cda A	53.55	52½	53.55	53½
Stone Consold	20¾	20.15	20¾	20.30
Suncor	62	60	61.95	60.10
Talisman Eny	39.30	38.90	39.30	39.35
Teck B	29.15	28¾	29.10	29
Teleglobe	39¾	39.10	39½	39¾
Telus	19.70	19.45	19.70	19½
Thomson	27.80	27.55	27.80	27.90
TorDom Bank	37.70	36.85	37.70	37
Transalta	15.70	15.45	15.65	15.70
TransCda Pipe	25¾	25.30	25.70	25½
Trimark Finl	42.15	41.80	41.80	42
Trizec Hahn	29¾	29.15	29.35	29¾
TVX Gold	8.95	8.65	8.95	8.80
Westcoast Eny	23.95	23.80	23.90	23.90
Weston	70½	69.90	70	69.90

Vienna
ATX Index: 1170.95 — Previous: 1166.77

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Boehler-Uddeh	854.50	836	849	829
Creditanst Pfd	468	461.20	462.90	464.80
EA-Generali	3080	2800	3060	3050
EVN	1584	1556	1557	1565
Flughafen Wien	520	509	518.50	509
OMV	1305.80	1283	1283	1280.10
Oest Elektriz	846.90	842.60	846.90	844
VA Stahl	476.50	470.50	473	472
VA Tech	1753	1734.10	1740	1700
Wienerberg Bau	2155	2121	2129	2144.15

Wellington
NZSE-40 index: 2253.55 — Previous: 2243.21

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Air N Zeald B	4.03	3.98	4.00	4.02
Brierly Invt	1.30	1.29	1.29	1.27
Carter Holt ord	3.14	3.10	3.14	3.08
Fletch Ch Bldg	4.20	4.16	4.16	4.18
Fletch Ch Eny	4.26	4.18	4.24	4.16
Fletch Ch Forst	1.91	1.87	1.88	1.88
Fletch Ch Paper	2.92	2.91	2.91	2.90
Lion Nathan	3.41	3.40	3.40	3.40
Telecom NZ	6.57	6.54	6.55	6.55
Wilson Horton	11.50	11.45	11.50	11.50

Zurich
SPI index: 2927.32 — Previous: 2935.72

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABB B	1743	1720	1724	1736
Adecco B	481	469.50	470	480.50
Alusuisse R	1195	1177	1177	1186
Ares-Serono B	1835	1790	1830	1840
Atel R	900	890	890	900
Baer Hdg B	1691	1680	1691	1680
Baloise Hdg R	2940	2910	2910	2935
BK Vision	872	868	870	869
Clariant R	815	800	800	799
Crd Suisse Gp R	167	163	164.50	166.25
Elektrowatt B	534	532	533	533
Ems-Chemie	5920	5750	5860	5900
ESEC Hdg	3960	3900	3900	3860
Holderbank B	1148	1110	1116	1137
Liechtenst LB B	474	474	474	472
Nestle R	1750	1732	1738	1740
Novartis R	1790	1769	1780	1785
Oerlikon Bueh R	148.25	147	148	147.25
Pargesa Hld B	1700	1670	1700	1690
Pharm Vision B	720	713	718	720
Richemont A	1965	1925	1965	1925
Pirelli PC	234	228	230	233
Roche Hdg PC	11960	11780	11825	11850
SBC R	301	297	297.50	299
Schindler PC	1850	1778	1796	1762
SGS B	3075	3060	3065	3050
SMH B	815	800	801	810
Sulzer R	1007	974	980	989
Swiss Reins R	1562	1544	1547	1552
Swissair R	1299	1287	1292	1298
UBS B	1328	1313	1322	1324
Winterthur R	1026	1007	1010	1022
Zurich Assur R	456.50	449	450	454

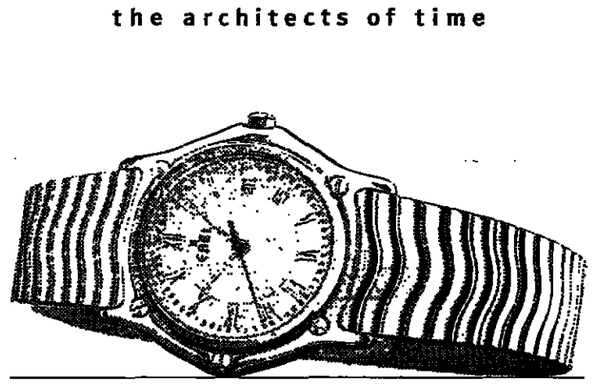
NYSE

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close

Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press.

EBEL

the architects of time



"Sport Classic"
in polished steel. Water resistant to 50 m.
5 year international warranty.

Continued on Page 18

مكتبة من الأصل

Profit Surges At Jiangling With Help From Ford

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HONG KONG — Jiangling Motors Corp. attributed its huge 1996 profit rise Wednesday to its success in limiting production costs, with help from Ford Motor Co., its U.S. shareholder.

Jiangling said net profit last year leaped 776 percent, to 34.6 million yuan ($4.16 million) from 3.95 million yuan a year earlier. But a fall in sales prices caused by sharp competition limited gains at the Chinese maker of light trucks. Revenue totaled 1.69 billion yuan, down from 1.97 billion yuan in 1995.

The results, published in the China Securities newspaper, were calculated under Chinese accounting standards except for the net profit figures, which were based on international standards.

Ford, which currently holds a 20 percent stake in Jiangling, helped improve cost controls and streamline management, a Jiangling spokesman told the Hong Kong-based newsletter China Securities Bulletin.

Jiangling also announced it would begin making light commercial vehicles with Ford's help in the second half of 1997.

"Profit margins widened as Jiangling used more China-made car parts, which are cheaper," a spokesman said, adding that the domestic content of its vehicles rose to 80 percent in 1996 from 60 percent in 1995.

Jiangling plans to issue 170 million new B shares, the class of shares that foreigners can buy, in June to raise funds for the light-vehicle project. That is expected to cost between 4,500 million and 700 million yuan.

Ford in 1995 paid about $40 million to buy 80 percent of Jiangling's 174 million B shares. The U.S. company also will buy 120 million shares of the new issue for $54.5 million.

After the offer, Ford would hold close to 30 percent of the company's shares, Jiangling said.

Separately, Jiangling's chief competitor, Qingling Motors Co., a Chinese company that makes Japanese Isuzu light trucks, said it planned to increase output a modest 4 percent to 10 percent this year as it tested a new pickup-truck model. Qingling reported Tuesday that its net profit more than doubled in 1996. *(Reuters, Bloomberg)*

South Korea Giants Nurse Their Wounds

Daewoo Securities Posts Loss

Bloomberg News

SEOUL — Daewoo Securities Co., South Korea's largest brokerage concern, reported its first loss in nearly two decades Wednesday, having been battered by a slumping stock market and a slowing economy.

The company had a loss of 37.8 billion won ($42.2 million) in the year ended in March, its first loss since 1979.

Its loss is expected to set the pattern for many other South Korean securities firms as well. Quoting industry sources, the Maeil Business Newspaper said the combined losses of the nation's top 10 brokerage concerns reached 247 billion won last year. Official figures will be released next month.

The Seoul daily said Tong Yang Securities Co., one of the 10 companies, had the biggest loss, 80 billion won. It said Dong Won Securities Co., a medium-sized brokerage firm, was the most profitable in the year just ended, with earnings of 8 billion won.

"Most of the 33 brokerages posted losses last year as their stock losses swelled and costs remained high, although their stock-transaction commission and underwriting incomes grew slightly," Y.C. Mok, an analyst at ING Baring Securities, said. Performances should improve this year, aided by an expected stock-market rebound, but substantial profit gains are unlikely because of high costs and large loan losses, he said.

Daewoo had stock-market losses of 34.1 billion won last year and set aside an additional 18.9 billion won for future stock-valuation losses, Yoo Hyung Jong, a Daewoo executive, said. Income from stock-broking transactions rose 20 percent, to 18.9 billion won.

Daewoo also reserved 19 billion won for possible loan losses after the failures of Hanbo Group in January and Sammi Group in March. Daewoo had extended an undisclosed amount of loan guarantees to the two groups.

Mr. Yoo said the company expected a net profit of about 40 billion won this year, largely because of the anticipated recovery in stock prices. "The worst is over," he said.

Jinro Tries to Stay Afloat

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — Jinro Group, facing concerns that it is near collapse, said Wednesday it planned to merge and sell businesses to try to bolster its finances.

Jinro, South Korea's 19th-largest industrial group, will reduce the number of its units to 12 from 18. Its announcement came a day after Jinro executives said the company would sell $1.3 billion of assets and close unprofitable businesses.

The company has debts totaling about $3.3 billion.

"The plan is part of our restructuring efforts to cut down unprofitable businesses," Kim Sung Ho, a Jinro spokesman, said.

The announcement came as another South Korean company, Ssangyong Motor Co., also said it was considering selling buildings and land to raise 70 billion to 80 billion won ($78 million to $89 million) to repay its debts.

Analysts said Ssangyong's debts were estimated at 3.7 trillion won, while the company put them at 3.2 trillion won.

Analysts said financially troubled South Korean companies would continue to trim assets to try to pay debts.

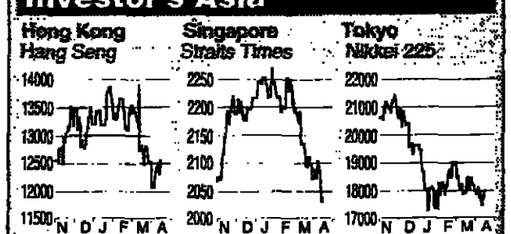
"Consolidation will continue," Na Min Ho of Daishin Securities said. "Financial problems with Jinro and Ssangyong were highlighted as they disclosed plans to sell off assets."

Jinro's troubles became apparent last week when one of its companies missed a debt payment, raising concern it could become South Korea's third major corporate casualty this year.

Two steelmakers, Hanbo Group and Sammi Group, failed in January and in March, respectively, under a combined $8.2 billion debt load. Both failures showed how rising debt and a slowing economy were crippling some of South Korea's biggest companies.

With annual sales of about $3.9 billion and 6,000 employees, Jinro Group has subsidiaries in liquor, beer, construction, distribution, foods, electric cables, broadcasting and trading. South Korean banks said they were considering a bailout of Jinro. *(Bloomberg, Reuters)*

Investor's Asia



Exchange	Index	Wednesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	12,591.31	12,342.02	+1.94
Singapore	Straits Times	2,040.19	2,032.97	+0.36
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,406.40	2,381.70	+1.04
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	18,031.28	17,938.59	+0.54
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	1,087.78	1,086.87	+0.10
Bangkok	SET	716.89	713.52	+0.48
Seoul	Composite Index	702.42	701.39	+0.15
Taipei	Stock Market Index	5,614.78	5,616.11	-0.02
Manila	PSE	2,960.97	2,949.46	+0.39
Jakarta	Composite Index	632.82	631.27	+0.25
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,253.56	2,243.21	+0.46
Bombay	Sensitive Index	Closed	3,647.44	...

Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

• **Seagate Technology Inc.**, the world's largest disk-drive manufacturer, may transfer the production of some of its high-end disk drives for portable computers from Singapore to Malaysia.

• **Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.** said it was close to an agreement with **AT&T Corp.** on cutting accounting rates to 85 cents a minute from $1. The accounting rate is what AT&T pays its Philippine counterpart for handing calls made from the United States to the Philippines, and vice versa.

• **Chrysler Corp.** said it would cut prices on its Neon compact sedan in Japan by up to 15 percent after the company sold less than a quarter of what it had forecast in the six months after its rollout.

• **China** expects to decide by the end of the month when it will allow the first ship in 48 years to sail directly across the Taiwan Strait from the Chinese mainland, said an official of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the Ministry of Communications in Beijing.

• **Tokyo's** office occupancy rates rose for the 10th straight quarter as the Japanese real estate market stabilized after five years of decline. The rates rose 0.8 percent to 94.8 percent in the January-March quarter.

• **Mitsubishi Motors Corp.** of Japan will start producing recreational vehicles in Taiwan and will begin exports to the island. A ban on Japanese car imports was lifted in February.

• **Singapore** and **Hungary** said they would sign agreements to guarantee investments and avoid double taxation.

• **Shaw Wallace & Co.**, a liquor and personal care products maker, offered to sell a majority stake in its soaps and detergents unit, **Calcutta Chemical Co.**, in a bid to raise funds to repay debts of about 3 billion rupees ($84 million).

• **Capital Guardian Trust Co.**, a U.S. fund manager, has become the largest shareholder in **Wako Securities Co.**, giving it the largest foreign stake in a listed Japanese brokerage. *Bloomberg, Reuters*

Hanoi and Beijing Start to Crack Down on Pirates

Firm to Pay in Vietnam Copyright Suit

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HANOI — A state-owned entertainment company in Ho Chi Minh City has been ordered by a court to pay damages to a composer in Vietnam's first copyright lawsuit, the company said Wednesday.

The acting director of Saigon Video Co., Pham Hong Cam, said the company was ordered to pay 13.39 million dong ($1,150) in compensation to a composer, Tran Tien, for illegally recording and distributing his songs.

Saigon Video produced an album featuring 10 of Mr. Tien's songs, some of which had been slightly modified.

The company argued in court that it had not violated copyright law because the songs had previously been widely distributed and it was therefore not obliged to ask the composer for permission to reproduce his work.

But the court ordered the company to pay Mr. Tien 12 percent of its revenues from the sale of more than 6,000 audio cassettes.

It also ruled in favor of Mr. Tien's claim that after Saigon Video released its album, he lost a contract with another firm that had agreed to make an album of his songs.

Saigon Video was ordered to make public apologies to the composer in a newspaper and in local television and radio broadcasts.

The protection of authorship and intellectual property is specified in the civil code that came into effect last year.

But videos, audio cassettes and compact discs are routinely copied and sold in Vietnam.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials said Wednesday that the two countries were on the verge of reaching a copyright protection agreement. *(Reuters, AFP)*

2 in China Are Sentenced to Prison

By Seth Faison
New York Times Service

SHANGHAI — As part of a nationwide crackdown on the illegal copying of movies and music, the Supreme People's Court has announced prison sentences in two high-profile cases of copyright piracy, official media reported Wednesday.

China's failure to prosecute copyright pirates has been a major sticking point between Chinese and American trade negotiators, so the imprisonment of factory managers who were responsible for large-scale piracy marks a breakthrough of sorts.

Pu Xinghua, former deputy general manager of Suzhou Baodie Compact Disk Co., was sentenced to 17 years in prison for pirating more than 3 million audio and video compact disks valued at about $1.5 million, including 130,000 pornographic videos, the court said. The long sentence was clearly due to the fact that many of the movies illegally copied at his factory contained pornography.

Wang Binyan, former chairman and general manager of Cailing Audio & Video Products in Guangzhou, was sentenced to four years for copying more than 5 million audio and video disks valued at $26 million.

In the past, punishment for copyright pirates in China has generally been limited to minor fines, in some cases because judicial authorities did not see illegal copying as a serious crime. In other cases, where the piracy business was so lucrative that powerful members of China's military and police got involved, factory managers were able to escape prosecution.

Mr. Wang's office, for example, was inside a military compound in Guangzhou until he was taken into custody a year ago.

Slowdown Is Seen for Asian 'Tigers'

Agence France-Presse

MANILA — China, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam will maintain economic growth rates of up to 10 percent into the new millennium, though the maturing, original Asian "tigers" are heading for a slowdown, a United Nations report said Wednesday.

While somewhat slower than in the recent past, "the rates are still high enough to enable their current economic size to double within a period of seven to 10 years," the UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific said.

The "first generation" newly industrializing economies of Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan, meanwhile, "are expected to record a more pronounced slowdown as a natural consequence of maturing economies," the report said.

The "comparatively slow-growing South Asian" economies are expected to improve as they put reforms in place and prospects for the region's "least developed" and Pacific island economies "may not be so bleak," it added.

The Philippine economy, which was not classified, should "grow at an accelerated rate of 7 percent during the period" of 1996 to 2000, the report said.

The economies of the former Soviet republics of Central Asia "are expected to stabilize fully and set themselves on a path to positive growth by the turn of the century," the UN body said.

The agency's projections are partly based on indications of "healthy growth" of the world's developed economies into the 21st century.

The world economy should grow by 2.7 percent per year from 1996 to 2000, compared with 1.4 percent in the previous five years, the report said. Asia and the Pacific will have an average GDP growth of 6.7 percent per annum, compared with 7.2 percent in the last five years, while some Central Asian "economies in transition" will post 3.3 percent growth, from negative 7.7 percent, it said.

Before the turn of the century, Malaysia's GDP, which registered an estimated 8.2 percent increase in 1996, will average 8.3 percent per annum, Thailand with 6.7 percent growth in 1996, will average 7.3 percent, and Vietnam, with 9.4 percent in 1996, will average 9.9 percent, the report said.

China, which grew by an estimated 9.2 percent in 1996 will average 8.7 percent, the UN body said.

Hong Kong, with estimated 5.0 percent GDP growth in 1996, will average 4.4 percent from 1996 to 2000, the report said. Singapore, with 6.7 percent in 1996, will average 6.0 percent over the five-year period, and South Korea, which registered 6.6 percent last year, will maintain this growth rate, it said.

FIDELITY GLOBAL SELECTION FUND
Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable
Kansallis House - Place de l'Etoile
L-1021 Luxembourg
R.C. No B 27223

NOTICE OF ADJOURNED EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

As the Extraordinary General Meeting of March 28, 1997 did not reach the quorum of 50 % required by law, notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders of Fidelity Global Selection Fund Sicav ("the Company") will be held at the registered office of the Company in Luxembourg on May 2, 1997 at 09.30 a.m., or on any adjourned date, to consider the following agenda:

1. To resolve to liquidate Fidelity Global Selection Fund.
2. To appoint Fidelity Investments Luxembourg S.A. as the Liquidator and to determine the powers to be granted to the Liquidator and the liquidation procedure.
3. To fix the date of the second Shareholders' Meeting to hear the Report of the Liquidator and to appoint Coopers & Lybrand as the Auditors of the Company.
4. To fix the date of the third Meeting of Shareholders to hear the Report of the Auditor and to decide the close of the Liquidation of the Company.

No quorum of shares present or represented at the Meeting is required in order to deliberate validly on the agenda. A decision in favour of the Resolution no. 1 of the agenda must be approved by Shareholders holding at least 2/3 of the shares represented at the Meeting.

Subject to the limitations imposed by the Articles of Incorporation of the Company with regard to ownership of shares which constitute in the aggregate more than three percent (3%) of the outstanding shares, each share is entitled to one vote. A shareholder may act at any Meeting by proxy.

Dated: January 27, 1997
By Order of the Board of Directors

Fidelity Investments™

These people are earning us a reputation

You don't get to be Europe's fastest growing, English speaking television channel by sitting in the studio. It's only by being at the scene that you can really discover what's actually happening and why. BBC World brings you impartial and accurate news reporting plus a powerful combination of journalism and in-depth analysis.

BBC World offers 24hr news and business updates, plus quality current affairs, documentary and magazine programmes which will enrich and inform.

We invest in people who really care about their reporting so whatever the programme, the same high standards apply.

Our people will keep you better informed.

BBC WORLD™

For information on airtime sales and sponsorship opportunities call: Nick Carugati on: (+44) 171 580 5420

BBC World is distributed in Continental Europe by European Channel Management Ltd, a joint venture of BBC Worldwide Ltd., Pearson Television Ltd. and Cox Programming Ltd. BBC World is a trademark of the British Broadcasting Corporation.

CURRENCY AND CAPITAL MARKET SERVICES

IFEXCO
International Foreign Exchange Corporation
YOUR GOAL IS OUR GOAL
Margin 3 - 5% - 24 hour trading desk
MARKET UPDATES ON NBC TEXT PAGES 355 & 356
and INTERNET:WWW.IFEXCO.CH
Call for information package & free daily newsletter
86 bis route de Frontenex - 1208 Geneva - Switzerland
Tel (41) 22 849 7411 - 24hr (41) 22 849 7440 - Fax (41) 22 700 1913

For further details
on how to place your listing contact:
Julian STAPLES in London
Tel: (44) 171 836 4802
Fax: (44) 171 240 3417
Herald International Tribune
THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

NASDAQ

Wednesday's 4 P.M.

The 1,000 most-traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.

The Associated Press.

NYSE

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close

(Continued)

Advertisement

INTERNATIONAL FUNDS

April 16, 1997

available on Internet: http://www.iht.com/IHT/FUN/funds.html

Quotations supplied by fund groups to Micropal Paris (tel: 33-1 40 28 09 09)

service sponsored by NOKIA

For information on how to list your fund, fax Katy Hourd at (33-1) 41 43 92 12 or E-mail : funds@iht.com

Quotations for your funds *via* E-mail : e-funds@iht.com

The data in the list above is the n.a.v. supplied by the fund groups to Micropal SA. It is collated and reformated into the list below being transmitted to the IHT. Micropal and the IHT do not warrant the quality or accuracy of the list, the date of the performance of titles of the Fund Groups and will not be liable for the list, the date of Fund Group to any extent. The list is not and shall not be deemed to be an offer by the IHT or Micropal to sell securities or investments of any kind. Investments can fall as well as rise. Past performance does not guarantee future success. It is advisable to seek advice from a qualified independent advisor before investing.

999 Other Funds

AS - Australian Dollars; AS - Austrian Schillings; BF - Belgian Francs; C$ - Canadian Dollars; DM - Deutsche Marks; DKr -Danish Kroner; De - US Dollars; ECU - European Currency Unit; FF - French Francs; FM - Finish Mark; FL - Dutch gFlorin; IDR - Indonesian Rupiah; LR - Italian lire; LF - Luxembourg Francs; p-peseo; MYR - Malaysian Ringgit; Ptas - Pesetas; SGS - Singapore Dollars; SF - Swiss Francs; Sek - Swedish Kroner; THB - Thai Baht; Y - Yen;

a - asked + - Offer Prices; N.A. - Not Available; N.C. - Not Communicated; o- Near; S - suspended; S/S - stock Split; * - Ex-Dividend; ** - Ex-Rits; @ Offer Price Incl. 3% prelim. charge; ' - Paris exchange; ++ -Amsterdam exchange; o - telequoted earlier; x-not registered with regulatory authority. P: Middle of bid and offered price. E: estimated price; y: price calculated 2 days prior to publication; ± bid price.

The marginal symbols indicate frequency of quotations supplied: (d) - daily; (w) - weekl; (b) - bi-monthly; (f) - fortnightly; (r) - regularly; (t) - twice weekly; (m) - monthly.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Peter Dejong/AP

Jalabert breaking away on the Wall of Huy, a steep hill.

Jalabert Wins

CYCLING Laurent Jalabert, of the ONCE team, surged away from fellow Frenchman Luc Leblanc, with Polti, one kilometer from the finish at the summit of a steep hill to win the Fleche Wallonne cycle race in Belgium for the second time in three years.

Jalabert crossed the line about 18 seconds ahead of former world champion Leblanc. Alex Zuelle, a Swiss rider with ONCE, took third place. *(Reuters)*

Seeds Fall in Barcelona

TENNIS Only six of the 16 seeds remained in the Barcelona Open Wednesday after Yevgeni Kafelnikov, the second seed, lost to Magnus Larsson 3-6 6-2 6-3 and Marcelo Rios, the fifth seed, lost to Spaniard Alberto Portas 7-5, 7-6. Carlos Moya was one of the few seeds to survive the second round. He beat fellow Spaniard Francisco Clavet 6-4 6-4. Clavet had beaten Moya last week in Estoril. *(Reuters)*

Five Red Cards in Cup

SOCCER Five players were shown the red card in the match between Gremio of Brazil and Peru's Sporting Cristal even though both teams had already qualified for the second round.

Gremio won 2-0 and finished top of the qualifying group. It lost Paulo Nunes, while the Peruvian champion lost Norberto Solano and Manuel Marengo.

Uruguay's Nacional finished with nine men against Deportivo Cali of Colombia after Gustavo Badell and Aguiar were shown the red card in the last five minutes in Montevideo. The match ended 1-1. Cali must win against Uruguayans Penarol on Friday to move ahead of Nacional into third place and join Penarol and Millonarios, of Colombia, in the next round.

• Cottbus Energie became only the second regional league side to reach the German Cup final by beating first division Karlsruhe, 3-0, on Tuesday night. Hertha Berlin, an amateur team, reached the final in 1993. It lost. *(Reuters)*

Robertson Gives Kidney

Oscar Robertson, 58, a Hall-of Fame basketball player, was released from University Hospital in Cincinnati on Tuesday after donating his kidney to his daughter Tia, 32, who is suffering from lupus. She was reported in good condition. *(AP)*

Mets' No. 42, 'On Cloud 9,' Sparks Rally

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It all seemed so appropriate:

A daring dash to the plate. A game-turning play at second base. A black player wearing No. 42 starting the go-ahead rally. Only a Dodgers' victory was missing — but the New York team won.

Times have changed a bit in 50 years.

"I was on cloud nine the whole day; my stomach was turning the whole game," Butch Huskey said Tuesday night after starting the winning rally in the New York Mets' 5-0 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers, who, for the first time since Jackie Robinson made his debut 50 years ago, do not have a black man in their starting lineup.

"I'll remember the president was here," said the Mets manager, Bobby Valentine. "I'll remember Butch wore 42 and had a big part in the game."

Lance Johnson had a pair of two-run singles and paid tribute to the man who paved the way for blacks to play major league baseball.

"To win it for Jackie, to have a good game, is something I'm never going to forget for the rest of my life," Johnson said.

Just before President Bill Clinton spoke from behind home plate, Huskey sparked the go-ahead rally when he singled off Ismael Valdes leading off the fifth.

Huskey got a shock when acting commissioner Bud Selig announced to the crowd that Robinson's No. 42 was being retired for all major league teams, an idea proposed by the National League president, Len Coleman. But the 12 players who now wear the number can keep it for the rest of their careers.

"That's the utmost award I can ever get in my life," Huskey said. "I can get any other award for the rest of my career and it will not mean more to me."

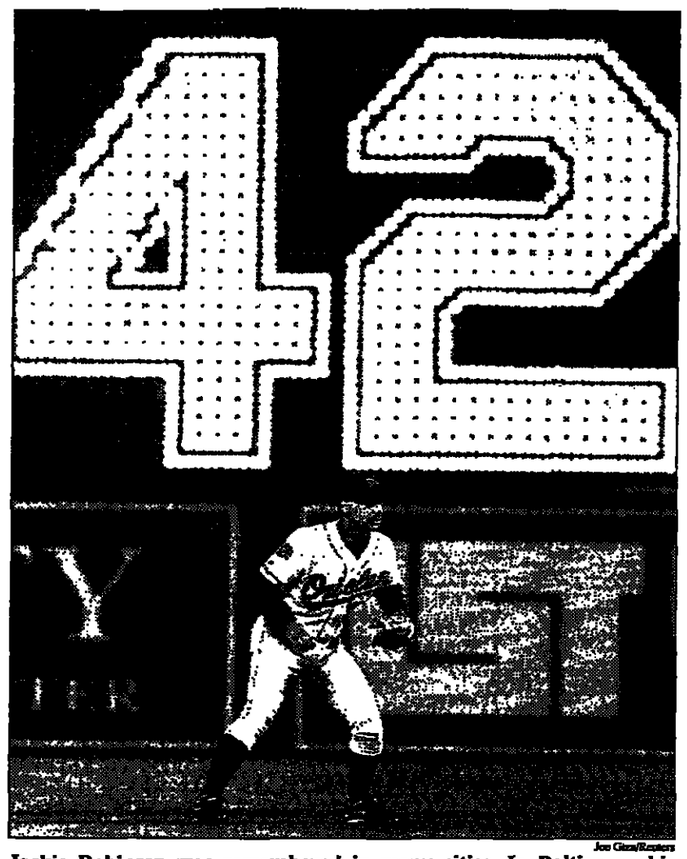
What about players who want to honor him in the future by wearing No. 42?

"A day late and a dollar short," Huskey said.

Carlos Baerga followed Huskey's hit with a hit-and-run grounder to third that Todd Zeile fumbled for an error, and Alex Ochoa's single loaded the bases. Rey Ordonez bounced into a 1-2-3 double play, but pinch hitter Matt Franco walked to reload the bases.

Johnson followed with a grounder up the middle. Rookie second baseman Wilton Guerrero knocked the ball down but had no play.

One run scored easily, and Ochoa — running the way Robinson would have — never broke stride and scored all the way from second on a ball that didn't make it out of the infield.



Jon Gen/Reuters

Jackie Robinson was remembered in many cities. In Baltimore, his number was lit up on the scoreboard behind the Orioles' Jeff Reboulet.

Colorado Gives the Cubs A Dubious Distinction

The Associated Press

On a historic day that belonged to No. 42, the Chicago Cubs made their mark with No. 11.

The Cubs set the modern National League record for consecutive losses at the start of a season, dropping to 0-11 Tuesday with a 10-7 loss to the Colorado Rockies.

While the rest of baseball was celebrating the 50th anniversary of the day Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier wearing No. 42 for the Brooklyn Dodgers, the talk at Wrigley Field concerned the Cubs' misery. "I can't sleep, I can't eat," center fielder Brian McRae said. "I have to send my wife away on a trip until things get better, because I'm not fun to be around right now."

The Cubs had been tied with the 1988 Atlanta Braves at 0-10 for the modern NL mark; the league's 1884 Detroit Wolverines also dropped their first 11 games.

The major league record is 0-21 by the 1988 Baltimore Orioles.

Larry Walker hit two home runs, giving him nine this season, as the Rockies won their fifth straight road game. Colorado was to play again Wednesday at Chicago.

Walker leads the majors in homers and RBIs (22), and is batting .522.

Pirates 3, Padres 2 Tony Womack wobbled to first base with a trainer at his side in an odd ending at Three Rivers Stadium.

With the score 2-2, the Pirates loaded the bases with one out. Sterling Hitchcock's pitch glanced off Womack's arm and into his face, dropping the Pittsburgh leadoff hitter to the ground.

After a few minutes, Womack got up and slowly made his way to first base. Had he not been able to make it, baseball rules would have permitted a pinch-runner to complete the trip.

Greg Vaughn hit a solo homer for San Diego in the top of the ninth.

Braves 3, Reds 0 John Smoltz pitched a six-hitter for the 10th shutout of his career. The NL Cy Young winner struck out seven and walked two.

Atlanta won its fourth in a row and 10th in 11 games. Cincinnati lost its sixth straight road game.

Cardinals 9, Marlins 3 Brady Raggio won his major league debut, pitching five and one-third innings to beat Alex Fernandez and host Florida.

Raggio gave up two runs and five hits. St. Louis, which has five pitchers on the disabled list, called up the 24-year-old Raggio from Triple-A Louisville on Monday.

Giants 8, Phillies 4 Jeff Kent homered for his third straight game, and San Francisco won its fifth in a row. The Giants tied their best start on the road at 4-0. Philadelphia lost its fourth consecutive game.

Expos 7, Astros 5 Pedro Martinez made his first appearance of the season a strong one, pitching six innings at the Astrodome. He held Houston to three hits and struck out six.

Martinez was suspended for eight games last September for his part in a brawl. He served one game last year, and missed the first seven games this season.

NL ROUNDUP

Fans Recall Jackie, A Hero to Many

By Bruce Weber
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — It was a trifle surreal, the game halting just after the Mets had rallied to take a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the fifth inning at Shea Stadium.

But this was not baseball on Tuesday night; it was ceremony. It was history.

A singer named Tevin Campbell sang "The Impossible Dream" from a microphone behind home plate, and then came the announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, the president of the United States." President Bill Clinton, hobbled from his recent fall, limped to the plate on crutches.

"Unbelievable," said Arthur Bernadette, a businessman from Teaneck, New Jersey, sitting behind the home-plate screen. "I've been coming here since 1964, and I've never seen this, though I used to see Richard Nixon sitting right over there, with six Secret Service men."

The president was at Shea to honor Jackie Robinson, who played his first major-league game for the Brooklyn Dodgers 50 years ago Tuesday. Clinton's message, "that America is a better, stronger country when we all work together," was well received by a crowd that consisted of many more black people than usual in a major-league ball park, and many more people of any color than one might find these days at Shea for an ordinary game.

All in all, the president received a warmer welcome from the fans than many mayors do. But then, it was a different type of crowd. For one thing, the Mets had distributed 19,000 free tickets, most of them to children.

The fans arrived early, and they were uncharacteristically well-mannered, not quiet really, just thoughtful, or so it seemed. During the game, people were distracted; indeed, the familiar cry of "Let's go, Mets" arose with the Los Angeles Dodgers at bat.

Beforehand, outside the park, there was little of the ill-tempered shoving that often characterizes the lines at the ticket booths.

The game between the Mets and the Dodgers seemed almost incidental to the Jackie Robinson fête, and many of those in attendance, if not most, were drawn by his memory more than by the fortunes of the somewhat hapless home team.

"He was absolutely my hero," said Jacqueline Tuggle, 62, a retired financial analyst with IBM Corp. "In 1947, when I was about 12 years old, he came to my church, the Trinity Methodist Church in the Bronx, and he changed my life. I know it sounds hokey, but he did. Before his getting into baseball, what was there for a black person to aspire to? He let us know you could do anything you set your mind to. I just loved that man."

Isaac Gilbert, 72, traveled from Staten Island with his longtime friend Henry Bingham. Both are retired from the New York State Department of Mental Health, and they have been working together and talking baseball since 1964.

"I became a Dodger fan in 1946 in South Carolina," said Bingham, who is 68. "I just liked them. I don't know why. And when they left, I went over to the Mets. I came today for the Jackie Robinson tribute and, of course, to see my losing old Mets."

Felix Varela, 64, a substance-abuse counselor who lives in the Bronx and was wearing a Yankees hat celebrating last year's World Series championship, said he became a Dodgers fan in the mid-1940s when he lived in Puerto Rico.

"But they left us, remember?" he said. "So my allegiance is to the Yankees." Still, he said, when Robinson joined the Dodgers in 1947, "We felt, in Puerto Rico, that our heart was in Brooklyn."

Varela arrived here not long afterward. "I loved to see him try to beat the Yankees," he said. "Then finally, in '55, the Bums did it."

Of Robinson, Varela said: "They Dodgers traded him, you know. Nobody remembers that. To the Giants. But he didn't go. He said he was going to hang his glove up and retire with honor. Today they don't have that; it's all about money. But Jack had it. Jack had it."

And of course, there were the old Brooklynites, many of them dressed in old Dodger jackets or caps emblazoned with the stylized letter "B."

Mike Vitulli, 56, a restaurant worker who lives on Long Island, said his sons bought tickets to the game for his birthday, along with the Brooklyn jacket he was wearing and a Dodger yearbook from 1956, the year of the last Brooklyn World Series appearance.

"Growing up we heard a lot of stories," said his 33-year-old son, Joe.

"It was a nickel for the bus," Vitulli said, "and we'd get into Ebbets Field for nothing after the third inning. It was nothing to skip school and go to a ball game."

Vitulli, who is white and grew up in Brooklyn, said his neighborhood was mixed and that he went to games with black friends. Robinson's arrival in Brooklyn, he said, "was something for all of us." Vitulli said he became a Mets fan after the Dodgers left town.

"But tonight," he said, "I'm rooting for the Dodgers."

Ruth Fremson/The Associated Press

President Clinton with Robinson's widow, Rachel, at the Dodger game.

Yankee Fans Welcome Leyritz, Then Rue His Return to N.Y.

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Yankee Stadium fans rose to salute Jim Leyritz after the Anaheim Angels' catcher hit a second-inning home run, again showing their appreciation for Leyritz's contributions to the Yankees' 1996 World Series championship.

But Leyritz may have worn out his welcome in the ninth when he lined a two-out, two-run double into the gap in left center off the once-invincible Mariano Rivera, lifting the Angels to a riveting 6-5 victory and leaving a crowd of 16,944 stunned and silent.

Welcome back to New York, Jim. Now go home.

"I don't know if I'm going to get treated as well the next time I'm here," said Leyritz, who had four hits Tuesday night and a two-run homer in Monday night's victory over New York. "It would be fun to do this against any team, but doing it here makes it that much nicer."

The Angels' Japanese pitcher, Shigetoshi Hasegawa, who retired the side in order in the eighth, got his first major league victory.

AL ROUNDUP

Royals 7, Blue Jays 5 In Toronto, Jeff King had three hits, including a homer, and drove in three runs in Kansas City's victory.

Rangers 5, White Sox 2 In Arlington, Texas, Bobby Witt blanked the White Sox for seven innings as the Rangers extended Chicago's early-season slide. It was Chicago's sixth loss in seven games.

Orioles 3, Twins 1 In Baltimore, Brady Anderson and Jeff Reboulet homered and three Baltimore pitchers held Minnesota to two hits as the Orioles won their fifth straight. Anderson led off the first with his second home run and went 2-for-3, his seventh multihit game in 11 games this season.

Mariners 8, Indians 4 In Cleveland, Paul Sorrento drove in four runs with a career-high five hits to lead Seattle.

Red Sox 7, Athletics 2 In Boston, Aaron Sele pitched seven shutout innings as the Red Sox posted their third straight triumph.

Jose Canseco, traded from Boston to Oakland in the offseason, spoiled the shutout with a two-run single in the ninth off Heathcliff Slocumb.

Tigers 3, Brewers 1 In Milwaukee, Tony Clark's two-run homer powered Detroit to victory. *(LAT, AP)*

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	9	2	.818	—
Boston	7	6	.538	3
Detroit	7	7	.500	3½
Toronto	4	6	.400	4½
New York	5	8	.385	5

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Milwaukee	5	4	.556	—
Kansas City	6	5	.545	—
Minnesota	6	7	.462	1
Cleveland	5	7	.417	1½
Chicago	3	9	.250	3½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	8	5	.615	—
Oakland	7	6	.538	1
Anaheim	6	6	.500	1½
Texas	5	5	.500	1½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	10	3	.769	—
Florida	8	4	.667	1½
Montreal	5	6	.455	4
New York	4	9	.308	6
Philadelphia	3	9	.250	6½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	8	6	.571	—
Pittsburgh	5	6	.455	1½
Cincinnati	5	8	.385	2½
St. Louis	4	8	.333	3
Chicago	0	11	.000	6½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Colorado	9	3	.750	—
San Francisco	9	3	.750	—
Los Angeles	8	4	.667	1
San Diego	7	5	.583	2

TUESDAY'S LINE SCORES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit	000	002	001—3	8	1
Milwaukee	001	000	000—1	6	0

Blair, Myers (8), Sager (8), Jones (9) and Johnson; Karl, Florie (8) and Matheny. W—Blair, 2-2. L—Karl, 0-3. Sv—Jones (3). HR—Detroit, Clark (3).

Oakland	100	000	01x—2	7	1
Boston	010	011	02x—4	11	2

Karsay, Wengert (5) and Molitor; Sele, Corsi (8), Slocumb (9) and Hatteberg. W—Sele, 2-0. L—Karsay, 0-1. HRs—Boston, Garciaparra (2), O'Leary (1).

Seattle	000	000	051—6	14	0
Cleveland	000	000	010—1	9	0

Walcott, B. Wells (7), Charlton (8) and Manzano; Wilson (7), Hershiser, Assenmacher (8), M. Jackson (9), Shuey (8), Plunk (9) and S.Alomar. W—B. Wells, 1-0. L—M. Jackson, 0-1. Sv—Charlton (3). HRs—Cleveland, S. Alomar (6), Thome (2).

Minnesota	000	100	000—1	2	0
Baltimore	100	010	01x—3	5	0

Aldred, Guardado (8), Nathy (8) and Steinbach; Kamieniecki, Rhodes (6), R. Myers (9) and Webster. W—Kamieniecki, 1-0. L—Aldred, 1-1. Sv—R. Myers (6). HR—Baltimore, Reboulet (1), Anderson (2).

Kansas City	010	230	001—7	10	3
Toronto	001	110	020—5	9	1

Rosado, R. Veres (6), Walker (8), Montgomery (8) and Macfarlane; Guzman, Quantrill (6), Timlin (9) and O'Brien. W—Rosado, 1-0. L—Guzman, 2-1. Sv—Pichardo (3). HRs—Kansas City, King (2), Toronto, O'Brien (1), Sprague (1).

Anaheim	010	200	012—4	14	0
New York	013	000	100—5	9	0

Finley, DeLucia (3), DeMay (5), P. Harris (6), Hasegawa (8), James (9) and Leyritz; D.Wells, Nelson (7), Stanton (8), M. Rivera (9) and Girardi. W—Hasegawa, 1-1. L—M. Rivera, 0-1. HRs—Anaheim, Leyritz (3), New York, T. Martinez (4), Whiten (2).

Chicago	000	000	020—2	11	1
Texas	101	001	20x—5	7	0

Baldwin, Simas (8) and Pena; Witt, Hernandez (8), Wetteland (9) and I. Rodriguez. W—Witt, 2-0. L—Baldwin, 0-2. Sv—Wetteland (3). HRs—Chicago, Baines (1), Durham (1). Texas, Stevens (2).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Colorado	202	130	010—10	10	1
Chicago	022	110	001—7	9	1

M.Thompson, Dipoto (6), S. Reed (8), B. Ruffin (9) and Manwaring; Foster, Bottenfield (4), T. Adams (5), Castan (7), Wendell (8) and Servais. W—Thompson, 3-0. L—Foster, 0-1. HRs—Colorado, McCracken (1), Walker 2 (9), Bichette (2), M. Thompson (1). Chicago, McRae (1), Dunston (1), Kieschnick (1).

San Diego	000	001	001—2	7	1
Pittsburgh	000	002	001—3	8	1

Ashby, Hitchcock (9) and Flaherty; Lieber, Rincon (8), Ericks (9) and Kendall. W—Ericks, 1-0. L—Ashby, 0-1. HRs—San Diego, Vaughn (3), Gwynn (2).

Cincinnati	000	000	000—0	6	0
Atlanta	012	000	00x—3	9	0

Mercker, Carrasco (8) and Taubensee; Smoltz and Lopez. W—Smoltz, 2-2. L—Mercker, 1-1.

St. Louis	011	200	302—9	12	1
Florida	000	200	100—3	9	1

Raggio, Frascatore (6), Batchelor (8) and Lampkin; Fernandez, Heredia (7), Helling (7), Powell (9) and Johnson. W—Raggio, 1-0. L—Fernandez, 2-1.

San Francisco	000	104	003—8	12	1
Philadelphia	020	010	000—4	9	0

VanLandingham, Rod (6), Poole (8), Henry (9) and Wilkins; Munoz, Harris (6), Mimbs (7), Spradlin (9), Plantenberg (9), Blazier (9) and Lieberthal. W—VanLandingham, 1-0. L—Munoz, 0-3. HR—San Fran., Kent (4).

Montreal	400	000	300—7	9	0
Houston	000	010	130—5	7	0

P.Martinez, D. Veres (7), Urbina (8) and Fletcher; Holt, Lima (7), R. Springer (9) and Eusebio. W—P. Martinez, 1-0. L—Holt, 1-1. HRs—Montreal, H. Rodriguez (3), Houston, Bagwell (3), R. Johnson (1).

Los Angeles	000	000	000—0	8	1
New York	000	020	30x—5	10	1

Valdes, Park (7), Radinsky (8), To.Worrell (9) and Piazza; Reynoso, Borland (6) and Hundley. W—Reynoso, 1-0. L—Valdes, 1-2. Sv—Borland (1).

JAPANESE LEAGUES

CENTRAL LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pct.	GB
Yakult	9	2	—	.818	—
Hiroshima	5	5	—	.500	3.5
Yomiuri	5	6	—	.455	4.0
Chunichi	5	6	—	.455	4.0
Hanshin	4	6	—	.400	4.5
Yokohama	4	7	—	.364	5.0

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Hiroshima 9, Yomiuri 4
Yakult 14, Yokohama 8
Chunichi 2, Hanshin 1

PACIFIC LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pct.	GB
Kintetsu	5	2	1	.714	—
Daiei	6	3	0	.667	—
Seibu	5	4	0	.556	1.0
Orix	4	4	0	.500	1.5
Lotte	4	5	1	.444	2.0
Nippon Ham	2	8	0	.200	4.5

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Kintetsu 12, Daiei 6
Nippon Ham 7, Seibu 0
Orix 6, Lotte 5.

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Miami	59	20	.747	—
x-New York	54	25	.684	5
x-Orlando	45	34	.570	14
Washington	41	38	.519	18
New Jersey	24	55	.304	35
Philadelphia	21	58	.266	38
Boston	14	65	.177	45

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Chicago	69	11	.863	—
x-Atlanta	55	24	.696	13½
x-Charlotte	53	26	.671	15½
x-Detroit	52	27	.658	16½
Cleveland	40	39	.506	28½
Indiana	39	40	.494	29½
Milwaukee	32	47	.405	36½
Toronto	28	52	.350	41

WESTERN CONFERENCE

MIDWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Utah	61	18	.772	—
x-Houston	55	25	.688	6½
x-Minnesota	39	40	.494	22
Dallas	23	56	.291	38
Denver	20	59	.253	41
San Antonio	20	60	.250	41½
Vancouver	13	67	.163	48½

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Seattle	55	25	.688	—
x-L.A. Lakers	54	25	.684	½
x-Portland	46	33	.582	8½
x-Phoenix	39	41	.488	16
x-L.A. Clippers	36	44	.450	19
Sacramento	33	46	.418	21½
Golden State	30	50	.375	25

(z-clinched conference title)
(y-clinched division title)
(x-clinched playoff berth)

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

New Jersey 29 28 23 21—103
Atlanta 23 26 12 46—107

N.J.: Gill 11-20 2-2 27, Kittles 9-25 7-8 26; A: James 7-10 3-3 24, Blaylock 6-11 3-3 17. Rebounds—New Jersey 49 (Montross 13), Atlanta 44 (Mutombo 13). Assists—New Jersey 19 (Jackson 10), Atlanta 25 (Blaylock 11).

Utah	31	22	36	38—127
Phoenix	34	22	30	36—122

U: Malone 13-21 5-7 31, Homacek 8-14 9-11 27; P: Kidd 12-22 1-1 28, Chapman 8-14 6-6 24. Rebounds—Utah 44 (Malone 11), Phoenix 42 (Kidd 7). Assists—Utah 33 (Stockton 14), Phoenix 34 (Kidd, Johnson 11).

L.A. Clippers	28	28	23	40—119
Houston	39	32	25	27—123

L.A.: Rogers 13-18 4-4 34, Vaught 10-16 2-2 22; H: Olajuwon 9-16 6-7 24, Barkley 7-15 8-10 23, Johnson 8-12 2-2 23. Rebounds—Los Angeles 45 (Vaught 11), Houston 44 (Barkley 14). Assists—Los Angeles 31 (Berry 9), Houston 31 (Barkley 6).

Toronto	27	21	13	24—85
Milwaukee	16	22	26	27—92

T: Slater 9-18 1-1 19, Camby 8-18 2-3 18; M: Robinson 7-15 3-5 19, Baker 8-12 1-4 17, Gilliam 8-16 1-2 17. Rebounds—Toronto 50 (Rozier 13), Milwaukee 41 (Allen 8). Assists—Toronto 16 (Stoudamire 11), Milwaukee 26 (Douglas 8).

San Antonio	19	18	27	24—88
Seattle	28	29	30	21—108

S.A.: Herrera 6-8 2-2 14, Perdue 5-9 3-5 13; S: Payton 9-18 5-6 24, Kemp 6-10 10-12 22. Rebounds—San Antonio 37 (Perdue 6), Seattle 47 (Kemp 12). Assists—San Antonio 24 (Alexander 10), Seattle 24 (Payton 9).

SOCCER

LIBERTADORES CUP

FIRST ROUND

GROUP FOUR

Gremio 2, Sporting Cristal 0

GROUP FIVE

Nacional 1, Deportivo Cali 1

GERMAN CUP

SEMIFINAL

Energie Cottbus 3, Karlsruhe 0

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION

Extremadura 1, Valencia 0

STANDINGS: Real Madrid 76; Barcelona 69; Real Betis 67; Deportivo Coruna 63; Atletico Madrid 55; Valladolid 51; Athletic Bilbao 48; Tenerife 47, Valencia 47, Real Sociedad 47; Racing Santander 42; Compostela 40; Celta Vigo 39, Extremadura 39; Oviedo 38; Espanyol 37; Zaragoza 36, Rayo Vallecano 36; Sporting Gijon 35; Hercules 28, Logrones 28; Sevilla 27.

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

Bastia 1, Paris St Germain 1

STANDINGS: Monaco 68; Paris St Germain 57; Bastia 55; Nantes 53, Strasbourg 53; Bordeaux 51; Auxerre 49, Lyon 49; Metz 47; Guingamp 44; Montpellier 43; Marseille 41; Cannes 36; Le Havre 35, Rennes 35, Lens 35; Lille 33, Caen 30; Nancy 29, Nice 20.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Raith 0, Rangers 6

TRANSITIONS

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

KANSAS—Put LHP Chris Haney on 15-day disabled list.

TEXAS—Assigned OF Alex Diaz to Oklahoma City, AA. Put OF Eric Anthony on suspended list.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA—Assigned LHP Mark Tranbarger to South Bend, MWL. Signed OF Todd Stevenson and assigned him to Nuevo Laredo, Mex. L.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

NBA—Suspended Los Angeles Clippers F Lorenzen Wright one game without pay and fined him $5,000 for flagrantly elbowing Dallas Mavericks C Shawn Bradley on April 14.

DALLAS—Named Terdland Ussery president and chief executive officer.

PHILADELPHIA—Signed G Frankie King for remainder of season.

SACRAMENTO—Put F-G Kevin Gamble on injured list. Activated G-F Jeff Grayer.

FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ATLANTA—Signed CB Ronnie Bradford to 2-year contract. Signed WR Todd Kinchen and CB Ronnie Bradford to 2-year contracts.

CHICAGO—Signed WR Ricky Proehl. Agreed to terms with CB Tyrone Hughes on 3-year contract. Signed OT Andy Heck to a 3-year contract extension.

CINCINNATI—Matched contract offer from New England Patriots for OL Rich Braham.

DALLAS—Signed K Richie Cunningham, K Danny Kight and K Marshall Young.

DENVER—Signed DE Neil Smith to 1-year contract.

DETROIT—Agreed to contract terms with TE Pete Mitzelaars and OL Ariel Solomon.

MINNESOTA—Signed QB Randall Cunningham to a 1-year contract.

PHILADELPHIA—Signed DE Pertic Colloins to 2-year offer sheet.

CINCINNATI—Matched contract offer from New England Patriots for OL Rich Braham.

DALLAS—Signed K Richie Cunningham, K Danny Kight and K Marshall Young.

ST. LOUIS—Re-signed FS Keith Lyle to 5-year contract.

SAN DIEGO—Signed DE William Fuller to 2-year contract. Released DE Chris Mims.

SAN FRANCISCO—Signed OLB Jim Schwantz to an offer sheet.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

BOSTON—Returned G Rob Tallas, D Anders Myrvold and RW Landon Wilson to Providence, AHL.

CALGARY—Loaned LW Sergei Yerlanov to Saint John, AHL.

EDMONTON—Sent LW Ralph Intranuovo to Hamilton, AHL.

هكذا من الأصل

SPORTS

James Gets 24 In 4th Quarter As Hawks Overtake Nets

The Associated Press

Henry James, who entered the game with about 10 minutes left to play, made seven 3-pointers as the Atlanta Hawks outscored New Jersey, 48-21, in the fourth quarter to stun the Nets, 109-101. Atlanta tied the NBA season high for points in a quarter, set by the Toronto Raptors against the Nets on Jan. 11.

"I thought we needed some energy on the floor when I came in the game," said James, who has played with six NBA teams and began this season in the Continental Basketball Association. "I just tried to come out and make things happen. And, obviously, the 3-pointers were what was happening."

The Hawks trailed, 80-61, at the end of the third quarter on Tuesday night before James entered the game. He tied the NBA record for 3-pointers in a quarter, set this season by a teammate, Steve Smith.

James's 24 points came on the seven 3-pointers and a three-shot foul when he was fouled behind the 3-point line. The three free throws brought the Hawks to within 99-98 with 1:26 remaining.

James felt so confident he tried one 3-pointer from at least 10 feet (3 meters) behind the arc. That one missed, but he was 7-for-9 from 3-point range.

"I felt I should have hit that one, too," he said. "If given the opportunity, I would take it again."

James didn't score again after his three free throws, but Mookie Blaylock finished off the comeback with three steals in the final minute.

Rockets 123, Clippers 119 Hakeem Olajuwon scored 14 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter as the Rockets almost blew a 19-point lead against visiting Los Angeles.

Houston led, 98-79, early in the fourth quarter thanks to the 3-point shooting of Matt Maloney (5-of-6) and Eddie Johnson (5-of-7). But the Clippers pulled to within 109-106 with 3:21 left. Rodney Rogers led the rally with 12 fourth-quarter points and had 34 for the game. Houston held on, however, to pull out the victory.

SuperSonics 108, Spurs 88 In Seattle, Gary Payton scored 24 points and Shawn Kemp had 22 points and 12 rebounds as the SuperSonics reclaimed first place in the Pacific Division by routing San Antonio.

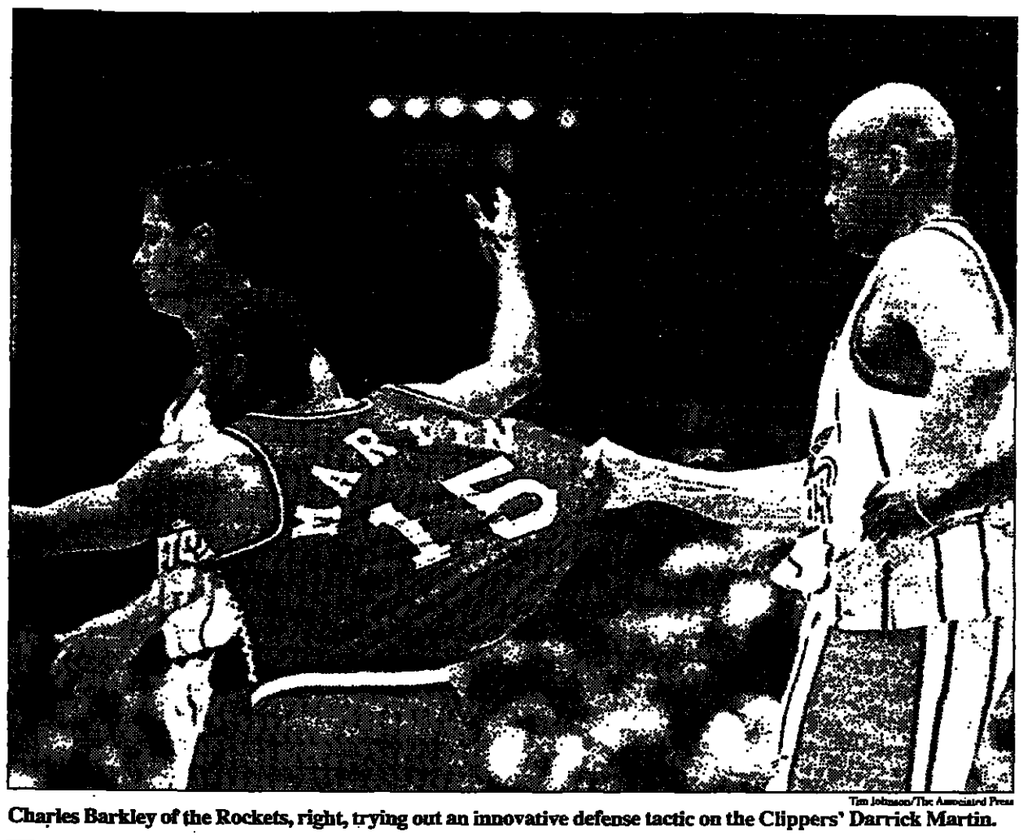
Jazz 127, Suns 122 Karl Malone had 31 points and 11 rebounds as Utah set a franchise record for victories by winning at Phoenix.

Jeff Hornacek, who had 27 points, hit a 3-pointer with 1:25 left to give the Jazz a 117-113 lead. With 57 seconds to go, John Stockton made it 120-115 with another 3-pointer, and Hornacek added three free throws in the final 15 seconds to ice the Jazz's 21st victory in 23 games. The triumph was No. 61 for the Jazz, a franchise record that bettered the 60-22 mark of the 1994-95 team.

Bucks 92, Raptors 85 Glenn Robinson and Vin Baker had strong second halves to carry Milwaukee past visiting Toronto.

Robinson scored 13 of his 19 points in the second half and Baker scored 14 of his 17 after halftime as the Bucks won for the third straight time, marching a season high.

NBA ROUNDUP



Tim Johnson/The Associated Press

Charles Barkley of the Rockets, right, trying out an innovative defense tactic on the Clippers' Darrick Martin.

1,066 and All That: NHL Playoffs

After a Long Season, 16 Teams Begin Seeking Stanley Cup

By Joe Lapointe
New York Times Service

Hockey games last three periods, but this season took four quarters.

It began in late summer, with a United States victory over Canada in the World Cup, an exciting breakthrough for a score of American stars. Many followed up with stellar National Hockey League seasons.

Fall and winter brought 1,066 regular-season games to qualify 16 of 26 teams for the springtime Stanley Cup playoffs. The surprising teams were in Buffalo and Dallas, both divisional winners after they failed to make last season's tournament.

The biggest disappointments were Boston, out of the postseason for the first time in three decades, and Washington, talented and injury-riddled and not quite good enough.

High-salaried, high-profile teams like Detroit, Pittsburgh and the New York Rangers qualified comfortably, despite regressing.

Canada didn't fare very well here, either, with Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver eliminated while Montreal, Ottawa and Edmonton barely made the cut.

Much of the season was dreary, filled with unpenalized obstruction fouls, lower scores, stagnant or declining television ratings, an increase in fighting and several egregious displays of disrespect for referees. But spring brings hope and a chance for an upbeat conclusion.

The defending champions, the Colorado Avalanche, first overall in the regular season, appear to be the favorite to repeat.

Joe Sakic, the Avalanche captain from Team Canada, said "I imagine it's going to be more difficult" to repeat than it was to win the first cup.

"We're not going to catch anybody by surprise," Sakic said. "Everyone will be gunning for us. We're ready for the challenge."

Colorado opened against Chicago on Wednesday night.

The New Jersey Devils, champions of 1995 and first in the Eastern Conference this season, face Montreal first.

Despite the loss of Dave Andreychuk with a broken ankle, New Jersey seems balanced, primed and motivated to erase the embarrassment of last spring's nonqualification.

Coach Jacques Lemaire, a modern man from the old school, will hide his players in the Montreal suburbs to avoid the distractions of the big city.

"You finish first, they say you have half the cup in your pocket," Lemaire said. "I've been through this. It's a long, long road."

The Dallas Stars finished second overall in the West and tied with the Devils at 104 points for second-best in the league, 3 behind Colorado.

Mike Modano, who led them with 35 goals and 83 points, said he wanted "to go hide under a rock" last April. This time, the precious stones in a Stanley Cup ring could balance his finger jewelry from the World Cup.

"This is what you play for all year," Modano said. "We turned it around. We proved we can beat the top clubs."

The Stars will play the young Oilers, who have the old Kevin Lowe back this season to remind them of their 1980s dynasty. He usually knows what to say.

"You've got to show them no respect," Lowe said, referring to the Stars. "Pick away. Play chippy and gritty. Hack and whack. Get in their faces."

Even lowly Ottawa, making its first playoff appearance with a league-low 77 points, opens against Buffalo with optimism.

"Heck, we're here," said Lance Pitlick, a defenseman. "We didn't just do this so we could lose four straight and go play golf."

The Flyers, who open against Pittsburgh, were the preseason favorite of many. But uncertainty over goalies — will it be Ron Hextall or Garth Snow? — has many of their fans fearful.

"I'm not the coach," said Hextall, who isn't always a stable goalie either. They should get by the Penguins, who aren't inspired by Mario Lemieux's farewell.

Detroit, another underachiever, has a Flyer-like goalie question — Mike Vernon or Chris Osgood? — and a coach, Scotty Bowman, who has moved a top center, Sergei Fedorov, to defense.

Fedorov isn't complaining.

"This brought me back to life," said Fedorov, who scored 30 goals. "It's kind of rebellious, and I like that."

Without a cup since 1955, Detroit has the league's longest drought. To get within sipping distance, they must first get by Grant Fuhr, the Blues' goalie, one of the few capable of stealing a series.

"I'm excited about the playoffs," said Fuhr, who was injured last spring when Detroit beat St. Louis in Round 2. "This is the unfinished business I've been looking forward to for two years."

Agents of Capitalism Pursue a Future Star

NFL Prospect's Family Is Besieged

By Nicole Harris
Special to The Washington Post

"Show me the money!" Tom Cruise screams in the movie "Jerry Maguire." The words hold special meaning for my family.

My brother, Marcus Harris, is a wide receiver for the University of Wyoming football team and the recipient of the 1997 Biletnikoff Award, given to the country's top college wide receiver. He is the first wide receiver in NCAA history to have three consecutive 1,400-yard seasons. He has amassed 4,518 yards in his college career, another NCAA record. He earned consensus all-American honors this past season. So Marcus, who will graduate this spring, declared himself eligible for Saturday's NFL draft.

Is it any wonder that sports agents have been calling?

Though plenty of respectable and respectful agents have sought out my brother, Marcus laughingly suggests that the "Jerry Maguire" movie character, sleazy agent Bob Sugar, was cloned and now calls him daily.

Agents "all act like they're my best friends," Marcus says. He is sure that the infamous "Show me the money!" line has been replaced by "Help me help you" as the mantra of sports agents. Translated, it means, "I'll do whatever you want, as long as I get my cut."

"Hey, partner," said one wannabe Jerry Maguire. "We'll — I mean you'll — be making millions."

The incessant calls from agents interested in representing Marcus began when he was a junior in college. Under NCAA regulations, a college player is allowed to speak with agents but cannot sign a contract without forfeiting all college eligibility.

One morning, Marcus was awakened by the phone. On the other end was an annoying, but persistent, agent who had hounded my brother's girlfriend, who lives in Minneapolis, and cajoled her into giving him Marcus's phone number in Laramie, Wyoming.

Marcus was not pleased. "If you want to pursue me, fine, I can handle that," he said. "But don't ever harass my friends."

The agent did not take the hint and kept talking. "Look," he said, "You weren't returning my calls and I knew your girlfriend would know where you were."

"Man, you just aren't getting it," Marcus told him.

"Well, at least now we get a chance to talk," the agent continued as if things were patched up between him and Marcus. As Marcus hung up, he heard the agent saying, "So how have you been doing?"

No sooner was the receiver in place than the phone rang again.

"Hey, Marcus," said another agent, who barely gave my brother a chance to say hello before launching into his pitch. "So, are you still 5 feet 10 and around 180 pounds?" asked the agent, who was clearly working with dated information. My brother has not fit that description since his freshman year in high school.

"Next time, do your homework," Marcus told him before hanging up.

Others took a financial tack, promising riches beyond belief. "Hey, partner," said one wannabe Jerry Maguire. "We'll — I mean you'll — be making millions."

"That's not my goal," said my brother, before he hung up again.

Marcus, who was by then running late for class, threw open his front door and tripped over a Federal Express package. Inside was a pair of new Nike shoes, size 10½ — just his size — and a running suit that fit his 6-2, 210-pound body perfectly. There was even a matching duffel bag.

Like clockwork, the phone rang for the fourth time that morning.

"Did you get the package I sent you?" asked the agent. "If you don't like the color, I can send you new shoes. I just want you to know that I can get you anything you need or even want. You are a superstar."

Marcus returned the gifts. So began a long, one-sided relationship that left Marcus feeling like he was being stalked and led him to start screening his phone calls.

My parents fielded numerous calls from pushy agents, who sometimes lied to get their attention. My mother, Mona Harris, remembers one agent who convinced a member of the Minnesota Vikings football team to call and offer free tickets to a game. Then the agent called, claiming to represent the Vikings player and offering to take on Marcus. My parents were skeptical and checked with the Vikings team. They said the agent didn't represent the player.

In December, my parents got a call from an eager agent, wondering if their son "Darrell" had hired an agent yet.

"If he has, let me know and then tell him to call his mother and introduce himself," my mother said.

My mother thinks the hardest part of this process has been "the people who see Marcus as just a meal ticket and a dollar sign."

Agents can take up to 4 percent of a player's contract. She was so tired of all the phone calls and come-ons from agents that she wrote to the NFL Players Association and inquired about becoming a registered sports agent herself. Marcus was relieved when she came to her senses and bowed out. "I think this might hurt our relationship," she told him.

The family was badly in need of direction. Friends introduced Marcus and my parents to Darren Nelson, a former player for the Vikings, and Robert Stein, former president of the Minnesota Timberwolves, who came to their aid. They reinforced what my family already believed: The most important thing is being in the draft, not the money.

Marcus and my parents considered a lot of top-quality sports agents. But even as it got down to the wire, there was a continued flood of empty promises from agents who stumbled over Marcus's name as if glancing at notes reminding them which future superstar they were talking to on the phone. The offers were alluring. At times, they nearly tempted my brother to cash in.

As I was talking to Marcus on the phone, his roommate interrupted to tell him that there was someone at the door to see him. He laughed. "I hope it's not someone literally trying to show me the money," he said as he hung up.

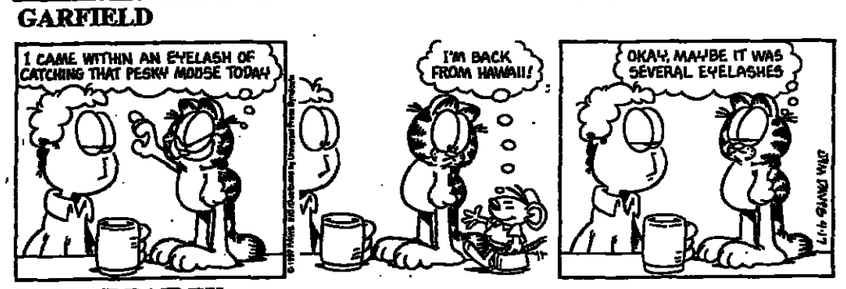
Nicole Harris is a junior at the University of Notre Dame.

DENNIS THE MENACE

PEANUTS

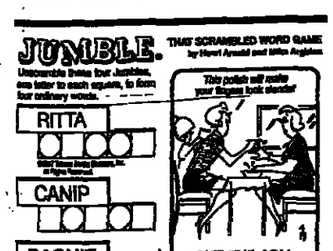
CALVIN AND HOBBES

GARFIELD



WIZARD of ID

JUMBLE



BEETLE BAILEY

NON SEQUITUR

DOONESBURY

BLONDIE

EDUCATION DIRECTORY
Appears every Tuesday.
To advertise contact
Kimberly Guerrand-Betrancourt
Tel.: + 33 (0) 1 41 43 94 76
Fax: + 33 (0) 1 41 43 93 70
or your nearest IHT office
or representative.

ART BUCHWALD

Sorry About That

WASHINGTON — Everyone in this country agrees that the CIA should be allowed to lie to protect its credibility.

The irksome question is, "To whom should they lie, and what should they lie about?"

Buchwald

For years the CIA has been lying to the military and Desert Storm veterans about chemical weapons that the Iraqis had stored in the desert — and which the Americans could have been exposed to.

While veterans have been suffering from the effects of nerve gas, etc. the CIA has steadfastly denied the existence of chemical weapons in the combat area. Most people would now consider this a big fat lie.

The theory in Washington is that the CIA was protecting its backside because it looked as if the agency had missed the boat. Or, worse still, it was so incompetent that one section didn't even share vital information with another.

No matter. The CIA apologized for its boo-boo last week and now the estimated 20,000 ex-GIs affected by the gas should feel better.

Sam Ribnick, a friend of mine who has been trying to get a hearing on the issue since 1992, said, "The CIA is an O.K. outfit. Very few people who screw up that badly would make a public apology. I like a secret service which eats humble pie."

I said, "Maybe they apologized because they would be sued for malpractice and they'd look even worse later on."

"I like to think that they did it for our American boys. Their apology indicates that not everyone who worked on the Iraqi desk during Desert Storm was a rocket scientist."

□

"Do you think that anyone will be fired for this blunder?" I asked

Sam replied, "The CIA doesn't fire people who screw up, it promotes them and even lets them keep their cellular telephones."

"I don't get it, Sam. They gave Aldrich Ames life in prison because he was responsible for the deaths of 10 agents on the CIA payroll. Shouldn't the agency people responsible for this nerve gas boondoggle be shot?"

"Maybe, but a nice apology should suffice. In the past, being the head of the CIA meant never having to say you're sorry."

"But this might set a precedent and we could be listening to a mea culpa every week."

"The happy ending to this story is that the GIs who may have been afflicted by the Iraqi gas explosions now sleep better just knowing that the spooks in Washington feel bad."

What's to Be Done With N.Y. Landmark?

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Loew's Paradise, the ornate Bronx theater remembered as one of the palaces of the golden age of moviegoing, has been designated an official New York City Landmark.

The 1929 theater, with its Italian Baroque-style facade, Corinthian columns, sweeping staircase and gilded railings, has been closed since January 1994 as the owners seek a suitable use for it.

Dorris's Suicide: Revelations Shock His Friends

By David Streitfeld
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Michael Dorris's suicide has become more understandable.

Also, less understandable.

Authorities in Minneapolis, where the 52-year-old novelist had been living, say they had been investigating child sexual-abuse allegations against him. The case apparently concerned one or more of the three daughters he had with his wife, the novelist Louise Erdrich. The couple, who also had three older adopted children, had been estranged for about a year.

With Dorris's death, the case has been dropped. A police department lawyer said the files probably would be sealed. Someone familiar with the sequence of events said charges had been on the verge of being filed when the writer suffocated himself with a plastic bag at a New Hampshire motel on Friday.

Dorris's attorney, Douglas Kelley, emphasized that "being investigated by a government agency is not the same as being charged and being charged is night and day from being convicted. Mr. Dorris was never even charged with any wrongdoing."

C. Dendon
Michael Dorris and Louise Erdrich at a reading of their works at a Paris bookstore in 1993.

In a statement, Kelley also said that "to speculate on any possible wrongdoing by Mr. Dorris is cruel and inappropriate." But much of the literary world couldn't help but speculate. With their popularity and good reviews, Dorris and Erdrich were a star couple.

She, the first to publish fiction, won a major national prize with her first novel. Her third novel was a national best-seller.

His book on the fetal brain damage that results when pregnant women drink alcohol brought national attention to the issue, became a best-seller, won awards and was made into a television movie. A novel published under both their names brought an advance of $1.5 million.

They were multitalented: essays, poems, stories, reviews, novels poured forth. They were pioneers, paving the way for many other American Indian writers. They were brave, raising three adopted children who had fetal alcohol syndrome. He was good-looking, and she was beautiful. Most of all, they publicly adored each other. "There were many people who were very jealous of Michael. This is going to be an instantly popular story, which breaks my heart," said the novelist Robb Forman Dew. Until the past year, Dew had been in frequent touch with Dorris. "He has always been an advocate for children. Every instinct I have tells me this is as unlikely as anything I've ever heard."

Amy Tan, who had known the couple for nearly a decade, said, "I'm a novelist and so I'm suppose to be good with words, but I find myself unable to say anything. To believe it is to go back and question everything you know about someone who was a friend." Tan said she hoped the allegations of abuse were all "a terrible mistake in perception, that it was something quite innocent being made to look perverse."

Charles Rembar, a New York lawyer who represented the couple in literary matters, said that "on the basis of a long and close relationship with Michael Dorris, I regard the charges as utterly implausible."

After a moment's reflection, he said he would rather substitute for those last two words a certain expletive indicating his complete lack of belief in the allegations.

Rembar said he didn't think Erdrich, whom he still represents, believed the charges either. Erdrich's publicist did not return a call requesting a statement.

A number of Dorris's close friends said that they hadn't had any idea he was being investigated.

Suzan Harjo, who saw him at the PEN/Faulkner reading in Washington last month, said "He was despondent, but he never mentioned he had contemplated taking his own life."

The adopted son who was the subject of "The Broken Cord" died after being hit by a car in 1992. Another son, Jeffrey Sava, stood trial in 1994 on charges of attempting to extort money from his adoptive parents. "Guess what? I am a bully. I pick on things weaker than I, I hurt them, and now I try to kill them," Sava wrote in a letter that became public during his trial in Denver. "As long as I have friends that work in the Oklahoma police department, I'll always be able to find you. You can't hide."

The jury deadlocked on Sava's guilt. At a second trial, he was acquitted on one count, and the jury voted 11-1 to acquit him of the second count. "Sava had a very good attorney, who turned everything around on Michael and Louise," said Harjo. "They felt they were accused and somewhat convicted. And at the same time they were afraid."

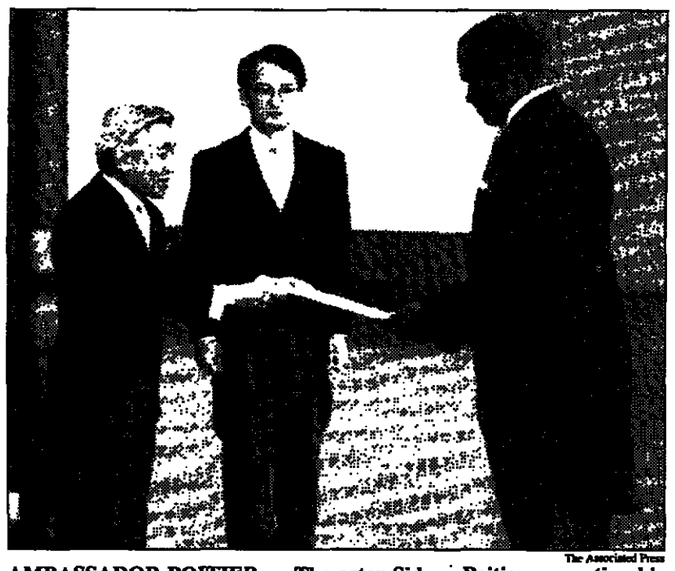
Dorris and Erdrich became very secretive about even the state they were living in. Now grown, Sava and his sister, Madeleine, reportedly are homeless.

In public, Dorris discussed none of these stresses. At a reading in Washington last month, he took the blame for his children's fates, saying "I don't think I was by any means the best parent my children could have found."

To raise a child damaged by fetal alcohol syndrome "requires a very, very special person, who is infinitely patient, who does not expect success and is willing to repeat the same things over and over and over again," he said. "I'm much too much a Type A personality, who expected them to get better by sheer act of will."

About a year ago, Harjo and others said, Erdrich decided she had to create a new identity. She moved out of the house in Minneapolis to a room a few blocks away, leaving Dorris with the three girls they had together. The children are 13, 12 and 8. "She initially said she was going to move into a studio where she was going to write," Harjo said. "But she left all her things. She left a nightgown hanging on a hook in the bedroom.

Michael said he didn't have the heart to remove it. It was a symbol for him she was coming back."


The Associated Press
AMBASSADOR POITIER — The actor Sidney Poitier presenting his credentials as the Bahamas' new envoy to Tokyo to Emperor Akihito.

PEOPLE

THE 1997 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction was awarded to "Women in Their Beds," by **Gina Berriault**. A collection of 35 short stories, "Women in Their Beds" also won this year's National Book Critics Circle award. Berriault will receive $15,000. The other nominees were **Daniel Akst**, for "St. Burl's Obituary," **Kathleen Cambor**, for "The Book of Mercy," **Ron Hansen**, for "Atticus" and **Jamaica Kincaid**, for "The Autobiography of My Mother." The runners-up will each receive $5,000.

□

A Lebanese jet-setter has purchased a yacht formerly owned by the bankrupt politician and entrepreneur **Bernard Tapie**, a French newspaper reported. **Mouna al Ayoub**, former wife of the Saudi businessman **Nasser Rashid**, has bought the 74-meter (240-foot) Phocea for 36.5 million francs ($6.3 million), according to Le Figaro. The administrators selling off Tapie's assets announced a few days ago that the yacht was being sold to Tranquil Ltd., which Le Figaro said was acting for Ayoub. Despite its price, the Phocea is rather a comedown from the 105-meter vessel Lady Mouna, which she used to sail on but which belongs to her ex-husband.

□

British architects gave lukewarm reviews Wednesday to **Prince Charles's** plans for a £1 million ($1.6 million) extension of his residence in western England. The project, drawn up by a chartered surveyor, **Charles Morris**, is for a wing at Highgrove to be used for charity balls. Made of ocher cut stone, with a tile roof and a courtyard, it evokes a Roman villa. **Graham Cooper**, chairman of the Art and Architecture Society, called it a "banal and depressing design which has more in common with Wimpey homes than Roman villas." **Paul Finch**, managing director of the Architect Journal, said, "It is time Prince Charles started looking to the future instead of harking back to historical styles that have little relevance for the way we live and work today." Morris said he was "not trying to create a museum piece," adding that the prince, an outspoken critic of architecture, had been closely involved with the project.

□

Princeton University is naming its film theater after an alum, **Jimmy Stewart**, and showing a retrospective of his work. Stewart, class of '32, already holds an honorary degree from Princeton. He served as university trustee from 1959 to 1963 and received the Woodrow Wilson Award for outstanding public service, the highest alumni honor.

□

After a two-decade reign as Russia's most famous pop singer, it might seem time for **Alla Pugachova** to pass on that role to someone else. But not if "Allochka" herself can help it. Celebrating her 48th birthday with glitz worthy of Hollywood, Pugachova held forth at a nationally televised concert, basking in adulation from the Kremlin on down. Pugachova arrived at Olympic Stadium in Moscow in a new stretch limo that was a birthday gift from her 29-year-old husband, the rock singer **Filipp Kirkorov**, who organized the tribute show.

□

Tom Cruise won't say exactly what he's doing in **Stanley Kubrick's** new psychological thriller, "Eyes Wide Shut," but he's not wearing a dress. "I've read a lot of stuff. No one's gotten it right. They're reaching," Cruise told the New York Daily News when asked if Kubrick had him dress in women's clothing. The actor and his wife, **Nicole Kidman**, play out a variety of sexual fantasies in the film, being filmed in England.

□

Erotic literature isn't what it used to be, says the novelist **Mario Vargas Llosa**. Pure love has been substituted with vulgarity, subtlety replaced by boorishness, the Peruvian writer said at a presentation in Madrid for his novel, "The Notebooks of Don Rigoberto." "Freedom of action . . . in our society has paradoxically stripped love from being a social taboo, which had made it sacred and mysterious," he said.

Every country has its own AT&T Access Number which makes calling home or to other countries really easy. Just dial the AT&T Access Number for the country you're calling from and you'll get the fastest, clearest connections home. And be sure to charge your calls on your AT&T Calling Card. It'll help you avoid outrageous phone charges on your hotel bill and save you up to 60%* (remember that old Chinese proverb— a yuan saved is a yuan earned). Check the list below for AT&T Access Numbers.

Steps to follow for easy calling worldwide:
1. Just dial the AT&T Access Number for the country you are calling from.
2. Dial the phone number you're calling.
3. Dial the calling card number listed above your name.

AT&T Access Numbers

EUROPE			
Austria●○	022-903-011	Sweden	020-795-611
Belgium●	0-800-100-10	Switzerland●	0800-89-0011
Czech Republic▲	00-42-000-101	United Kingdom▲	0500-89-0011
France	0-800-99-0011		0800-89-0011
Germany	0130-0010	MIDDLE EAST	
Greece●	00-800-1311	Egypt●(Cairo)*	510-0200
Ireland	1-800-550-000	Israel	177-100-2727
Italy●	172-1011	Saudi Arabia○	1-800-10
Netherlands●	0800-022-9111	AFRICA	
Russia●▲(Moscow)▷	755-5042	Ghana	0191
Spain	900-99-00-11	Kenya▲	0-800-10
		South Africa	0-800-99-0123

Can't find the AT&T Access Number for the country you're calling from? Just ask any operator for AT&T Direct® Service, or visit our Web site at: http://www.att.com/traveler

AT&T

Fastest, clearest connections from countries with voice prompts compared to similar U.S. carriers on calls to the U.S. Chosen based on customer preference testing. *Compared to certain local telephone charges based on calls to the U.S. in October 1996. Actual savings may be higher or lower depending upon your billing method, time of day, length of call, fees charged by hotel and the country from which you are calling. Bold-faced countries permit country-to-country calling outside the U.S. Collect calling is available to the U.S. only. Country-to-country rates consist of the cost of a call to the U.S. plus an additional charge based on the country you are calling. You can call the U.S. from all countries listed above. ●Public phones require deposit of coin or phone card for dial tone. ○Calling available to designated numbers only. ▲Limited availability. ◇Public phones require local coin payment during the call. ▷Dial "02" first, outside Cairo. ▽Additional charges apply outside Moscow. ©1997 AT&T

هكذا من الأصل